COMMUNITY AS A LOCUS FOR LEARNING: COMMUNITY-ENGAGED TEACHING, LEARNING & RESEARCH

NEBHE
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Panelists

Dan W. Butin
Executive Director, Center for Engaged Democracy
Dean and Associate Professor, School of Education, Merrimack College

Matthew Hartley
Associate Professor, Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania

Susan Connery
Director, Feinstein Community Service Center, Johnson and Wales University

Amanda Wittman
Manager of Academic and Strategic Initiatives, Campus Compact

Facilitator:
John Saltmarsh
Co-Director, New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE)
Located squarely between the neoliberal, market driven, highly privatized university and the need for universities to more effectively address social issues and improve the human condition are the issues of community engagement, public scholarship, and university-community partnerships.
Community Engagement describes the collaboration between higher education institutions and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.
The first elective category to be developed was, significantly, community outreach and engagement. If the effect of Carnegie’s efforts (and those of Dupont Circle and AAUP) in the first three quarters of the 20th century was to inscribe in academic structures and in the consciousness of faculty a national [and cosmopolitan] orientation, those organizations are increasingly emphasizing the value of the local. (p.12)

For Democracy’s Future:
Education Reclaims Our Civic Mission

White House meeting, hosted by the Secretary of Education and other Obama Administration officials

January 10, 2012
A NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION

A CRUCIBLE MOMENT

College Learning & Democracy’s Future

The National Task Force on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement
• Release of *A Crucible Moment: Civic Learning and Democracy’s Future – A National Call to Action*, from the National Task Force on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement at AACU and commissioned by the Department of Education

• Release of the Department of Education report, *Advancing Civic Learning and Engagement in Democracy: A Road Map and Call to Action*

• The inauguration of the *American Commonwealth Partnership* (ACP) aimed at envisioning and creating 21st Century Democracy Colleges in which, as Undersecretary Martha Kanter said, we approach “education as a civic and moral imperative as well as an economic imperative.” The ACP, as Harry Boyte explained it, will work with campuses to make a commitment to move “from scattered civic activity to deep civic identity.”
Advancing the Civic Mission of Higher Education

Improving Teaching and Learning

Community Engagement

Revitalizing Communities

Advancing Knowledge
OVERVIEW – THE “FOUR Rs” OF PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

• Relevance
• Reciprocity
• Reflection
• Respect
THE TENSION

- it is an “undisputed priority...[to construct] educational environments where education for democracy and civic responsibility is pervasive, not partial; central, not peripheral.” ~ A Crucible Moment (2012)
- We have reached an “engagement ceiling’ [in higher education]... characterized by an ever-increasing gap between the rhetoric and reality of what civic and community engagement is meant to be and to do.” ~ Butin (2012)
AN OPPORTUNITY – ACADEMIC PROGRAMS (from a sample of 60+…)

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<tr>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>MAJOR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alverno College</td>
<td>Community Leadership</td>
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<td>Bryant University</td>
<td>Sociology and Service-Learning</td>
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<td>Emory and Henry College</td>
<td>Public Policy and Community Service</td>
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**Curriculum**
- Sustained
- Scaffolded
- Sequential

**Research**
- Public
- Open to critique
- Can be built upon

**Impact**
- Deep institutionalization
- Capacity Building
A HUB FOR RESEARCH & BEST PRACTICE

- BEST PRACTICES
- CENTER FOR ENGAGED DEMOCRACY
- SUMMER INSTITUTE
- RESOURCES
- POLICY
- NETWORKS
- RESEARCH

Merrimack College
School of Education
AT MERRIMACK COLLEGE – MASTERS IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**PARTNERSHIPS**

- Northern Essex Community College
- Greater Lawrence Community Action Council
- Little Sprouts
- Community Teamwork (Lowell)
- Lawrence Public Schools
- Habitat for Humanity

**STRUCTURE**

- 36 credits
- Year-long clinical residency
  - Capstone project
  - Linkage of academic courses with site-base practice
PUBLICALLY-ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP – NEXT STEPS

- POSSIBILITIES
  - Impact
  - Sustainability
  - Capacity Building

- LIMITS
  - Resource Consuming (time, energy, funding)
  - Lack of Clarity of Goals and Outcomes

- NEXT STEPS
  - Campus “Champions”
  - Stronger Partnerships
  - Embedded Structures
RESOURCES

- Center for Engaged Democracy: www.merrimack.edu/democracy
- Masters in Community Engagement: www.merrimack.edu/communityengagement
- Contact: Dan W. Butin: dan.butin@merrimack.edu