

BENCHMARKS

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING RESULTS COMPARED TO EMPIRICALLY OR NATIONALLY DEVELOPED STANDARDS (Allen, 2004)

A PROCESS OF IDENTIFYING AND LEARNING FROM MODELS THAT ARE RECOGNIZED AS OUTSTANDING (Palomba & Banta, 1999)

A PERSPECTIVE THAT COMPARES AND ADDS AN EXTERNAL VIEWPOINT (Suskie, 2004)



Elective Classification for *Community Engagement*

An *elective* classification is one that relies on voluntary participation by institutions, and does not include the full universe of institutions.

The term, *community engagement*, is proposed because it offers the widest coverage, the broadest conception of interactions with community, and promotes inclusivity in the classification.



Definition

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.



Definition *(continued)*

Community Engagement achieves the following:

- Enhanced teaching and learning of relevant curriculum
- Expanded research and scholarship
- Preparation of engaged citizens
- Response to societal issues
- Contributions to the public good
- Strengthened civic responsibility



List Of Participating Campuses: Pilot Study

Portland State University
Northern Kentucky University
LaGuardia Community College
Kapi'olani Community College
Santa Clara University
University of Denver
Indiana University Purdue
University at Indianapolis
California State University
Sacramento

Elon University
Spelman College
University of Minnesota
University of
Pennsylvania
Tusculum College
Michigan State
University



Intentions Of Classification Of Community Engagement

- Affirmation and documentation of the diversity of campuses and their approaches to community engagement
- Indicators that recognize the “good work” that has been done while encouraging ongoing development toward the ideals of community engagement
- Encouragement of inquiry and learning in the process of documentation



Intentions *(continued)*

- Instrumentation and documentation that provide useful information for institutions
- Documentation that describes the scope of institutional engagement
- A framework that builds on current work of other organizations for a shared base of measurement or documentation
- A documentation process that is practical and makes use of existing data



Foundational Indicators

- Institutional Identity
- Institutional Commitment



Indicator: Institutional Identity

Documentation Examples:

- missions (institutional, departmental)
- marketing materials (brochures, etc.)
- website
- campus core values and norms
- community perceptions
- alumni descriptions
- mentoring of other campuses
- faculty scholarship
- tradition/history
- celebrations, recognitions, events



Indicator: Institutional Commitment

Documentation Examples:

- executive leadership
- strategic plan
- Definition of and plan for engagement
- budgetary allocations (internal/external)
- infrastructure (Centers, Offices, etc.)
- community voice in planning
- search/recruitment priorities



Indicator: Institutional Commitment *(continued)*

Documentation Examples:

- promotion/tenure policies and reward systems
- professional development support
- assessment/recording mechanisms
- student learning outcomes
- graduation requirements
- transcript notations of student engagement
- development case statements (fundraising)



Categories Of Community Engagement

- Curricular Engagement
- Continuing Education, Public Information, And Shared Resources
- Collaborations

