MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

TYPOLOGY of Publicly Engaged Scholarship



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INTRODUCTION

The lack of a common language for talking meaningfully about outreach and engagement inhibits scholars and administrators from effective institutional documentation and evaluation (Holland, 1999:39). How might researchers make sense of the jumble of terms used to describe faculty members' contributions to the public good?



RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND DESIGN

This mixed-methods, sequential, exploratory study addressed the following research questions in two phases:

- 1. What types of publicly engaged scholarship do faculty members report on their promotion and tenure forms?
- 2. Do the types of publicly engaged scholarship reported by faculty vary by gender, race, age, length of time at institution, Extension appointment, joint appointment, or college grouping?

DEFINITIONS

Publicly engaged scholarship is a scholarly endeavor that:

- cuts across instruction, research and creative activities, and service
- fulfills unit and university missions
- focuses on collaboration with and benefits to communities external to the university

Publicly engaged scholarship is not:

- private consulting
- individual volunteerism
- service on university, college, or departmental committees
- service to scholarly or professional associations

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Please contact us with your comments and ideas.

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TYPOLOGY OF PUBLICLY ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

TYPOLOGY	FACULTY REPORTS OF PUBLICLY ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP IN PROMOTION & TENURE			
Definitions and Examples	College Groupings		Demographics & Appointments	
	Less likely	More likely	Less likely	More likely
Publicly Engaged Research and Creative Activities				
1. Business, industry, or commodity group sponsored research	Social & behavorial sciences Arts & humanities Education	Business* Agriculture & natural resources		Extension
2. Nonprofit, government, or foundation sponsored research	Arts & humanities Physical & biological sciences	Agriculture & natural resources Health & medical professions*	30s 0-5 Years	50s 6-10 Years Extension Joint appointments
3. Publicly engaged scholarship funded intramurally or unfunded	Physical & biological sciences	Education* Social & behavioral sciences Agriculture & natural resources		
4. Creative activities, including performances of original work				
Publicly Engaged Instruction				
5. Publicly engaged for-credit instruction, including academic service learning, distance education		Engineering Social & behavioral sciences		
6. Non-credit instruction, incl. continuing education	Social & behavioral sciences	Education Agriculture & natural resources		Extension
7. Public understanding, media appearances, bulletins, museum exhibits	Arts & humanities Physical & biological sciences	Agriculture & natural resources		Extension
Publicly Engaged Service			·	
8. Patient and clinical services, incl. veterinary	Agriculture & natural resources	Health & medical professions		
9. Technical assistance, expert testimony	Physical & biological sciences Arts & humanities	Education Health & medical professions Agriculture & natural resources		Extension
10. Community service, incl. civic engagement activities not associated with academic credit				
11. Other publicly engaged service, incl. serving as knowledgeable expert and university representative	Social & behavioral sciences	Health & medical professions	30s 6-10 Years* Associate professor	40s 11-15 Years 16 + Years Full professor
Publicly Engaged Commercial Activities				
12. Patents, copyrights, technology transfer, licenses, economic development	Social & behavioral sciences	Physical & biological sciences	30s* 0-5 Years Associate professor	50s 16 + Years Full professor

All findings reported at p < .05 level of significance. Additional noteworthy findings indicated by a single asterisk. Analysis of gender and race did not return any statistically significant findings.

Our hope is that other researchers will refine and expand the typology, so that scholars of engagement can begin to have a common framework for research across institutions.