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# Initiating and Sustaining Partnerships - Resource Handout

Erin B. Brown  
VCU, [embrown@vcu.edu](mailto:embrown@vcu.edu)

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**Disciplines**

Civic and Community Engagement | Community-Based Learning | Community-Based Research | Higher Education | Service Learning

## RESOURCE HANDOUT

### Deepen the Relationship through Partnership Agreements

A “Partnership Agreement” can explicitly address:

Partnership infrastructure that ...

- Builds upon academic and community partner(s) strengths and establishes democratic leadership
- Considers resource capacity of all involved parties
- Explores roles and expectations of academic and community partner(s) throughout partnership development and, if possible, future research process
- A process for making decisions and working together towards a goal of mutual benefit for both the academic and community partner(s)

Partnership norms to include ...

- Mutual respect
- Open communication
- Recognition of the knowledge and expertise of all participants in the process
- How will you address conflict?
- Future data ownership (if applicable)

### Tips for Communicating Effectively with Your Partner

- Eliminate jargon
- Have an initial meeting on-site with the partner
- Make sure you have a specific point person as your main contact
- Communicate using the most effective method for your partner
- Provide written information about your project

### Tips for Positive Relationship Building

- Make sure the relationship has mutual benefit
- Be accountable
- Have clear expectations
- Guide partner on working with students
- Respect the work of your partner
- Be flexible

Fun site: See the Action Catalogue (<http://actioncatalogue.eu>) for models for exploring shared interests!

## Self-Preparation Checklist

### In thinking about Community-Academic Partnerships, ...

	Yes/This is easy for me to do	No/This is hard for me to do	I have no idea, I should think about this more
Do I possess the patience needed to work with a diverse team?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do I possess the patience needed to learn things I may not know?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do I possess the patience needed to teach others about my skills and experience?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do I have a genuine curiosity about how others live and/or what their jobs entail?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do I possess or am willing to learn the interpersonal skills needed to build long-term partnerships?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Am I willing and able to respect and inspire others?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do I have the ability to lead?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do I have the ability to share control?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do I have the ability to be led?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do I want to make others' concerns the focus of my work?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
As an academic, am I able to supplement my scientific skills with humility?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
As a community partner, am I able to support academic needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Am I committed to self-evaluation, equal power distribution, and the development of mutually beneficial partnerships?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>