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Learning Through Serving: Why University-Community Collaboration is an Educational Imperative

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Learning Through Serving: Why University-Community Collaboration is an Educational Imperative

Abstract

The objectives of this presentation were to: (1) understand how universities impact communities; (2) discuss importance of university-community collaboration; (3) review best practices for university-community collaboration; (4) explore ways to positively impact communities through university-community collaboration; and (5) learn ways to combine academic and professional goals through civic engagement.

Keywords

service-learning, higher education, collaboration, university, community, partnerships, university-community

Disciplines

Higher Education

Comments

Presented at the William and Mary Active Citizens Conference, Williamsburg, Virginia.

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Learning Through Serving:

Why University-Community Collaboration is an Educational Imperative

William and Mary Active Citizens Conference
February 14, 2014

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Objectives

- Understand how universities impact communities
- Discuss importance of university-community collaboration
- Review best practices for university-community collaboration
- Explore ways to positively impact communities through university-community collaboration
- Learn ways to combine academic and professional goals through civic engagement

How do universities impact communities?

In small groups of 4-5, make a list of the various ways that universities impact communities using the provided handout. Be prepared to share your responses.

Why is university-community collaboration important?

1. Share reasons why university-community collaboration is important.
2. Thinking about your reasons, work in small groups to develop an elevator speech explaining why this type of collaboration is important.

Getting the Picture—Thinking about Best Practices for Collaboration

Working in small groups, draw a picture of what an ideal collaboration between a university and community looks like.

Sharing Success Stories!

In small groups share one effective collaboration with the community at your university? What has made the collaboration successful?

Back to Basics—How do you fit into university-community collaboration?

Use the handout to think about how you fit into activities currently happening on your campus that engage the community. Think of at least one action step you can take to be more engaged.