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Are Your Findings 'Finding' Their Way to the Community? A Faculty Learning Community Approach to Broad Dissemination

Jennifer Early

Virginia Commonwealth University, s2jlearl@vcu.edu

Valerie Holton

Virginia Commonwealth University, vholton@vcu.edu

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Abstract

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Keywords

dissemination, CEnR, Virginia Commonwealth University, VCU, community-engaged research, community engagement, faculty learning community

Disciplines

Higher Education



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Purpose: A Faculty Learning Community (FLC) with a goal to develop personal and university-wide expertise in wide dissemination of research findings using web-based platforms.

Who?

Ten faculty members:

- represented a wide range of disciplines (including education, social work, literature and rhetoric, health, cancer prevention and control, and African-American studies);
- had varying levels of experience with communicating with the public via web-based platforms; and
- brought research findings they were interested in sharing beyond academic audiences.

What?

The FLC met face-to-face every 3 weeks over the course of the 2015-2016 academic year in order to:

- co-learn about web-based platforms for sharing research findings;
- create and implement their own dissemination plans; and
- develop and vet a research dissemination guide that incorporates these web-based platforms.

Why?

The transfer of research findings beyond scientific publication is often slow and haphazard.¹ Broad dissemination:

- finds its way to real and potential end-users in a timely, understandable, and accessible manner.
- follows the best practice of community-engaged research (CEnR)² which values and prioritizes the broad dissemination of research findings.



Execution

Web-based Platforms

References and Resources

1. Chen, P. G., Diaz, N., Lucas, G., & Rosenthal, M. S. (2010). Dissemination of results in community-based participatory research. *American journal of preventive medicine*, 39(4), 372-378.
2. VCU Community Engagement Definitions: <http://www.opds.vcu.edu/decisions/119.html>

VCU Research Dissemination Guide:
<http://guides.library.vcu.edu/dissemination>
 VCU Division of Community Engagement (DCE): www.community.vcu.edu
 VCU Academic Transformation Lab (ALT Lab): altlab.vcu.edu
 VCU Libraries: www.library.vcu.edu

