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Engaged Learning, Engaged Library

Jennifer E. Nutefall
Santa Clara University, jnutefall@scu.edu

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Presentation given on March 31st at the University of Michigan's Library Engagement Symposium.

Engaged Learning, Engaged Library

Jennifer Nutefall

Santa Clara University

Agenda

- Value of higher education

- Role of universities

- Defining engaged learning

- Characteristics and levels of engagement

- Integrating the library with engaged learning

Value of Higher Education

COLLEGE CALCULUS
What's the real value of higher education?

George Mason student shares debt struggles at congressional forum

Is college worth the cost?

Higher education
Is college worth it?

College Grads Question How Much a Degree Is Worth

The Role of Universities

Traditional

- Generate and transmit knowledge:
  - Research
  - Teaching
  - Service

Emerging

- Participate in a learning society through:
  - Discovery
  - Learning
  - Engagement

Engagement Academy, 2010

Defining Engagement

- **APLU:** Engagement is <u>scholarly</u>, cuts across the missions of teaching, research and service, provides <u>reciprocal</u> and <u>mutually beneficial</u> outcomes, and embraces the processes and values of a <u>civil democracy</u>.

APLU COUNCIL ON ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

The Centrality of Engagement

IN HIGHER EDUCATION

August 2015

Defining Engagement

- **Carnegie Community Engagement Classification:** Community engagement describes <u>collaboration</u> between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the <u>mutually beneficial </u>exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. The purpose of community engagement is the <u>partnership</u> of college and university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; <u>strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility</u>; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.

Defining Engaged Learning

- **University of Michigan:** Engaged learning can be conceived as a set of educational practices that provide students … opportunities for practice by addressing the unexpected, unscripted challenges in imperfect, real-world settings where stakeholders beyond the students themselves are invested in the outcome

Characteristics of Engagement

- Scholarly

- Mission

- Reciprocal and mutually beneficial

- Civil democracy

AU CCES Facebook, 2015

Centrality of Engagement in Higher Education, 2015

Indicators of Engagement

- Mission

- Leadership

- Promotion, tenure, hiring

- Organizational structure

- Faculty/Student involvement

- Community involvement

- Campus publications

Integrating the Library with Engaged Learning

- Course partnerships
  - First year writing
  - Environmental science
  - Sustainability in Appalachia

- University Engagement

- Collections and Digitization

- University Community Partnerships

- Community Service

Flickr (JiscinfoNet), Northumbria University, 2006
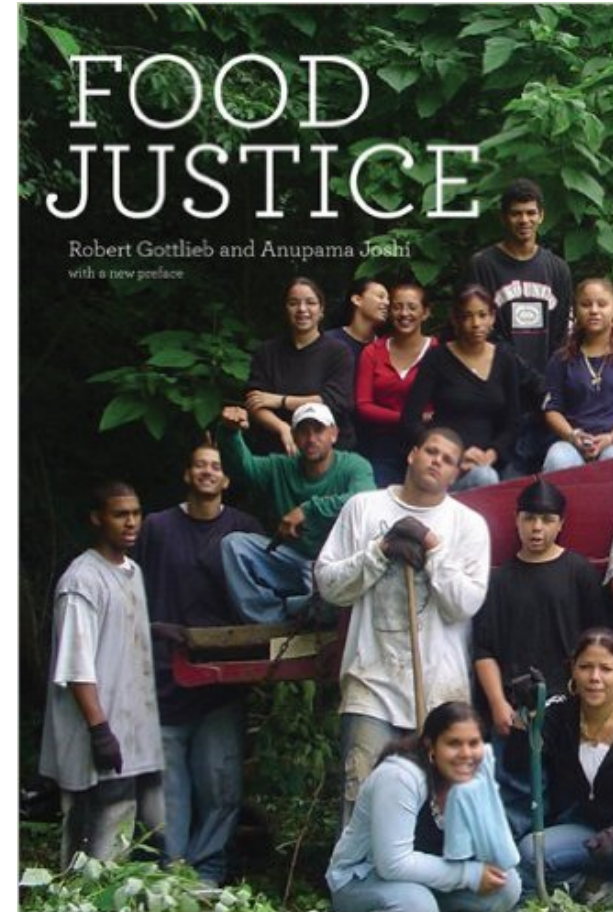
First Year Writing Course

- First-year writing course (4-credits)

- Theme based

- Assignments
  - Overview/analysis of the community organization
  - Research analysis

- Effect of service on research process
  - Increased motivation
  - Use of numerical data and primary sources
  - Increased knowledge in approaching and limiting topics
  - Potential for bias

Flickr, Lex McKee, 2014

Environmental Science

- Environmental and Food Justice

- Upper division course

- Discussions with faculty member
  - Planning process
  - Input into assignment and reflections
  - Multi-stage research paper

- Meetings with students.

Social and Environmental Sustainability in Appalachia

- 3 credit course with week-long service learning trip; Librarian is embedded

- 50% of the course grade is service learning participation, work, and reflection

- Assignments
  - Research paper
  - Incorporating scholarly articles in reflection paper
  - Essay quizzes that incorporate readings and lectures

University Engagement

- Core requirement/course tagging

- Weekly engagement

- Immersion programs

- Add-on credit

- Alternative breaks

Collections and Digitization

- Oregon State University Libraries
  - Oregon Explorer – natural resources digital library
  - Building Oregon – map-driven mobile website to learn more about historic Oregon buildings
  - Oregon Digital – joint project with the University of Oregon developing open source software for digital image collections

- University of Idaho Library
  - Received NEH grant to create digital and physical archive
  - "Common Heritage" event
  - Public lectures on digital scholarship and the value of community archives

OREGON EXPLORER Natural Resources Digital Library

University-Community Partnerships

- Santa Clara University - Thriving Neighbors Initiative
  - Supporting community based research and community organizations
  - Finding/using data such as census/community data
  - Connecting to the institutional repository

University-Community Partnerships

- West Bloomington Revitalization Project
  - Illinois Wesleyan University
  - Tool library
  - Institutional repository

- Near West Side Partners
  - Marquette University & 4 partners
  - Initial focus on promoting assets & reducing crime

ROOTS · PRIDE · VISION
WEST BLOOMINGTON
REVITALIZATION PROJECT

NEAR WEST SIDE
A Neighborhood of Neighborhoods

Library Community Service

If colleges and universities become properly engaged with our communities, we can become the source of social capital for a new era.

Judith Ramaley, Portland State University

President, 1990-1997