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Current Engagement Opportunities

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Recommended Citation

Amsden, Ben, "Current Engagement Opportunities" (2017). *Clusters*. 390.
<https://digitalcommons.plymouth.edu/plymouthclusters/390>

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Current Engagement Opportunities

Ben Amsden

Thu 8/31/2017 4:38 PM

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Dear Colleagues,

As the semester begins, I thought I'd take a moment to share the wide array of partners and interdisciplinary opportunities that the CBCP is cultivating for student and faculty engagement. Please consider these opportunities (see the list below) if you're thinking about class projects, student engagement, guest speakers, scholarship, research, or any other sort of engagement. These organizations (many of whom we've worked with before) are excited to see the cluster concept in action and are willing to work with PSU in whatever ways we can imagine. Please take a look and let me know if you see anything that piques your interest, and please feel free to forward this list to others. Chairs, may I please ask you to send this list your TAs (if you think it's appropriate). Also, please note that the CBCP stands ready to help facilitate developing relationships, provide logistical and administrative support, or otherwise help out as best we can.

On a related note, this summer the CBCP has been working on an articulation/definition of what makes a "robust" partnership - a document that will help us assess partnership development efforts and plan for growth. Many of you have provided feedback on early drafts, which I greatly appreciate. If you are interested in reading and commenting on what we have so far, please let me know and I'll loop you in.

And finally, if you have your own list of partnerships or opportunities, and would like to talk about synergies or other ways to work together, please be in touch!

Cheers,
Ben

In no particular order:

I4Class - The parent of a prospective student wants to learn how PSU can help his fledgling business further develop a professional development tool for teachers of math and technology.

NH Commission on Rural Affairs - This legislative body needs logistical help, including strategic planning and organizational development.

USFS Trail Club Convening (new) - A group of trail stakeholders, led by the WMNF, is looking for PSU to convene a "backbone" organization of NH trail clubs.

USFS-Volunteer Management: The WMNF is looking for help and planning around evidence-based practices for volunteer management.

USFS-Alternative Transportation: The WMNF is convening stakeholders to discuss alternative transportation in and around the WMNF.

North Country Council - The NCC is seeking help from PSU to conduct a resilience survey of north country stakeholders in support of the decennial CEDS update. Faculty are currently involved in survey creation but additional needs exist.

North Country RC&D - The board of this regional economic development group reached out to PSU to see if the organization and its project portfolio could serve as the basis for an open lab.

Harvest of the Month – RC&D (see above) received a USDA grant for food resilience and is looking to involve students in design, marketing, and decision sciences.

Town of Plymouth "Tourism" Designation: A group of stakeholders led by Bob Nadeau and Lisa Donor are creating an open lab in partnership with Selectman Neil McIver and others. Other opportunities for partnership include the Friends of the Pemi.

Tarleton Castle Arts Hub: Their ED recently supplied PSU with a list of needs including marketing, design, strategic planning, and more.

Ashland Economic Development Committee: This group is interested in including students in economic development projects throughout the town. Ben and Michelle Fistek recently met with the group.

Canterbury Shaker Village: Their Director is interested in developing closer linkages to programs including Historic Preservation, Heritage Studies, Social Science, etc. Also, with the Pillsbury Street location going away there is opportunity to use the Village as a classroom space.

NH Future in Sight: (formerly NH Association for the Blind) is interested in creating a cluster project focusing on expanding their outreach through class projects, student work, or research.

NH/Canada Trade Council Economic Development Event: Via Kate Harrington's Bienvenue program, the CBCP is helping the NH/Canada Trade Council raise funds and organize an economic development event scheduled for December.

Division of Economic Development/Rep. Kuster - Canadian manufacturing development support: The purpose of this ongoing project is to create an inventory of appropriate space for manufacturing development in the North Country. The project is being overseen by a coalition of North Country RDCs, and Ben participates in case opportunities develop for PSU to play a role.

Littleton Chamber of Commerce /Rep. Masamilla - visitor brochure: Pam Anneser's Design Lab has been creating a tourism brochure for the towns of Lancaster and Bethlehem. Additional opportunities exist for tourism development.

Timber Bridge Research: In partnership with the North Country RC&D, and the USFS wood products lab, Rachele Lyons of ES&P will be leading a research project to determine timber structures (such as bridges) can be viable alternatives, thus supporting the timber and wood products economy.

Vernal Pool Project: Rachele and partners at the Mt. Village Charter School and Plymouth Elementary have created a cluster project (titled Local Action to Preserve Biodiversity) to help communities document and preserve vernal pools.

Assess Hunger on Campus: This cluster project brings together the CBCP, ES&P, Sodexo, and the Student Support Foundation to conduct research and outreach towards better understanding hunger on the PSU campus.

Food Recovery Network: This ongoing student-led partnership with Sodexo provides unserved food to area organizations, and will be resuming this fall.

Utility Choice Savings: Our first co-op agreement completed its first year and is moving to Phase Two (marketing, PR) which includes 3 more students (COBA, English, Comm) and wider impact.

Holderness Department of Public Works: Via Conservation Commission, the DPW is interested in culvert assessment work. We are hoping to locate a student to work with them once the school year begins.

Mountain Village Charter School: The school has worked closely with PSU (Jamie Hannon) and is interested in formally articulating their relationship.

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