

2015 Provost Cross-School “Bring Your Own Idea” Gatherings Proposal

Topic: Community University Partnerships

Proposing Faculty

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Description of Topic (1 paragraph)

Community partnerships have a significant influence on how funders and the general public perceive universities. Is the academia an ivory tower standing aloof studying and acting on issues that seem distant from public concerns, or is it engaging with community organizations on research and projects that come from either academia or the community partners? Funders, especially foundations and corporations, are increasingly expecting high quality long term partnerships between community and academia that address real world problems with significant impacts on measurable indicators. The Center for Community Health Partnerships, Center for Community Engaged Research, and the Gephardt Center for Community Service have relationships with a diverse group of Washington University faculty, and have led networking events for community organizations and researchers. We propose bringing together a group of faculty who work with the community. At the first gathering we would discuss community partnerships, practice, research, and how we can connect more faculty who work with the community both with each other and with community organizations interested in engaging with the university. At subsequent meetings we would discuss the outcomes of the discussion and if there are any of those outcomes the group would like to implement.

Relevance for Washington University (1 paragraph)

The shifts in funding priorities described above pose both challenges and opportunities for current and future professionals working in medicine, business, architecture, public health, social work, psychology, and many other fields. Through teaching, research, and service, Washington University faculty, staff, and students have the opportunity to significantly influence approaches and solutions to real world problems using strong community partnerships. There are many faculty currently engaged in partnered work with communities and they have a strong need and interest to learn more about what colleagues from across the university are doing, and are looking for common approaches to nurture their community partnerships. Support from the Office of the Provost would help us better connect faculty with an interest in working with the wider community, and identify opportunities to leverage resources and effectively respond to the needs of the Saint Louis community. The current impression of many community members is that Washington University researchers are only interested in working in the community to the extent that it serves their own research. The lack of connectivity between the various faculty engaging the community strengthens that impression. Linking faculty in different

disciplines will enable coordination of efforts, better utilization of resources, enhance impact, and thus improve the reputation of the university in the community. The faculty we plan to invite to the meeting represent ten schools and departments across the university and would serve as a great foundation for the series of gatherings. With support and promotion from the Office of the Provost, the meetings will be a forum for discussion that would enhance future collaborations between faculty, schools, and the community.

Preferred Format

We would like to host a series of gatherings in the morning with breakfast provided. Ideally we would host at least three gatherings between now and the end of the fall semester.

Core Faculty List (to be initially invited)

	First Name	Last Name	Primary E-mail	School/Division
1.	Virginia	Braxs	mvbraxs@artsci.wustl.edu	Arts and Sciences
2.	Heather	Corcoran	hcorcoran@wustl.edu	Sam Fox School (Architecture)
3.	Graham	Colditz	colditzg@wudosis.wustl.edu	Public Health Sciences
4.	Ron	King	rking@wustl.edu	Olin Business
5.	Amanda	Moore McBride	ammcbride@wustl.edu	Gephardt Institute for Public Service
6.	David	Patterson	dpatterson22@wustl.edu	Social Work - Instr
7.	Katie	Plax	plax_k@wustl.edu	Pediatrics Diagnostic Center
8.	Jason	Purnell	jpurnell@gwbmail.wustl.edu	Public Health-Social Work
9.	Susan	Racette	racettes@wustl.edu	Program In Physical Therapy
10.	Will	Ross	rossw@wustl.edu	Med School Diversity Programs
11.	Vetta	Sanders- Thompson	vthompson22@wustl.edu	Public Health-Social Work
12.	Karen	Tokarz	tokarz@wulaw.wustl.edu	Law School

Bring Your Own Idea
Proposal to the Provost's Office
Washington University in St. Louis

Community-Based Teaching at Washington University

Amanda Moore McBride, PhD
Bettie Bofinger Brown Associate Professor, George Warren Brown School of Social Work
Director, Gephardt Institute for Public Service

Christine Berg, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Associate Professor
Program in Occupational Therapy
Washington University School of Medicine

Beth Martin, MS, PE
Engineering and Science Director, Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic, School of Law
Lecturer in Law and Lecturer in Environmental Studies

CV as Attachments

February 19, 2015

Community-Based Teaching at Washington University

Topic

Across all schools at Washington University, faculty use community-based pedagogy to advance student learning and development. This pedagogy may be referred to variously as service learning, experiential learning, clinics, studios and the like. What is common across all approaches is that a community partner is required to provide the faculty and students access to “real-world” people, issues, and problems that need understanding, consultation, or solving. Teaching in this manner is at once incredibly challenging, costly, and rewarding. When done well, community-based teaching can produce a triple win—for students, for community partners, and for the university. We propose a “Bring Your Own Idea” that will provide a venue for faculty across the university to discuss their approaches, needs, and strategies for effective and efficient use of this pedagogy, resulting in recommendations for advancing this pedagogy university-wide, including innovative interdisciplinary approaches.

Justification

Burgeoning research suggests that community-based teaching is highly effective for both undergraduate and graduate students in development of self-awareness, ability to work with others, and sensitivity to diversity as well as development of discipline specific knowledge and skills and potentially even awareness of other disciplines. These learning outcomes enhance the potential for our graduates’ success and impact in the world. Research also demonstrates that community partners can benefit greatly from the perspective and increased capacity that the faculty and students bring. For many of these reasons, faculty and students have made recent calls to increase this pedagogy across campus, e.g., Students in Solidarity, demands to deans, etc. However, managing this pedagogy for mutual benefit requires certain sensitivities and skills and can be time-consuming and even costly. According to records maintained by the Gephardt Institute for Public Service, there are approximately 70 community-based courses at the university, yet a minority of undergraduate students report taking one (9% from senior survey), which differs greatly from our peer institutions. Furthermore, most of these courses are taught by adjunct faculty. How can Washington University expand use of this pedagogy?

Logistics

The preferred style of gathering is through extended sessions that allow for “deeper dives” in the content and discussions. The target group will be polled as to preferred time of day for multiple three hour sessions. We propose an initial session in spring 2015 following into fall 2015.

Invitees

Please refer to the attached list of invitees.

Arts & Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beth Martin, Engineering and Science Director, Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic, School of Law, Lecturer in Law and Lecturer in Environmental Studies • Sonia Lee, Assistant Professor, History • Jami Ake, Assistant Dean Arts & Sciences, Lecturer WGSS and Literature, Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities • Sowande Mustakeem, Assistant Professor, AFAS/History • Brian Carpenter, Associate Professor, Psychology • Shanti Parikh, Associate Professor, Anthropology, AFAS, WGSS, Social Work • Rebecca Wanzo, Associate Professor, WGSS and Associate Director, Center for Humanities
Brown School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amanda Moore McBride, Bettie Bofinger Brown Associate Professor and Director, Gephardt Institute for Public Service • Molly Metzger, Assistant Professor • Aaron Hipp, Assistant Professor • Matt Kreuter, Kahn Family Professor and Associate Dean, Public Health
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ron King, Myron Northrop Professor of Accounting and Director, Center for Experiential Learning • Steve Malter, Associate Dean and Director of Undergraduate Programs
Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kurt Thoroughman, Associate Professor and Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies • Sandra Matteucci, Lecturer, Director, Engineering Communication Center
Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Tokarz, Charles Nagel Professor of Public Interest Law & Public Service • Robert Kuehn, Professor of Law and Associate Dean, Clinical Education • Maxine Lipeles, Senior Lecturer in Law and Co-Director, Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic
Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christine Berg, Associate Professor of Neurology and Occupational Therapy • Ericka V. Hayes, MD, Assistant Professor, Pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Infectious Disease and Director, Pediatric HIV Program • Katie Plax, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, Professor of Adolescent Medicine, Director of Adolescent Center, St Louis Children's Hospital, and Division Director of Adolescent Medicine
Sam Fox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Koster, Senior Lecturer • Liz Kramer, Assistant Director, Community Engagement • Patricia Olynyk, Director, Graduate School of Art; Florence and Frank Bush Professor of Art; Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies