

**Faculty Senate Task Force for Community Engaged Scholarship**  
**University of New Mexico**  
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**April 22, 2014**

**Re: Proposal to form Council for Community Engagement**

**Introduction**

In May 2013, the Faculty Senate proposed the formation of the Faculty Senate Task Force for Community Engaged Scholarship and charged it with:

1. Recommending ways in which UNM can facilitate community engaged scholarship such as:
  - a) Working with administration to establish a central contact point on campus where community members and organizations can partner with faculty, staff, and students engaged in community based learning and scholarship;
  - b) Publishing information on UNM's community engaged scholarship and projects; and,
  - c) Establishing structures to bring faculty, staff, and students together to discuss community engaged scholarship projects and funding opportunities.
2. Recommending ways for departments, college and schools, and provost's office to recognize community-engaged scholarship in tenure, promotion, post-tenure review, and merit pay decisions;
3. Discussing and making recommendations regarding other issues related to community-engaged scholarship.

This proposal is the culmination of our efforts and proposes the formation of a **Provost's Council for Community Engagement (CCE)**, comprised of community members, students, faculty, and staff, designated to support and advance UNM's community-engaged activities and to suggest action strategies to achieve that vision. The purpose of the *Council for Community Engagement* will be to develop and present recommendations for an university-wide action plan, a plan that will evolve within the context of future of the UNM 2020 strategic planning process.

**The Task Force asks that the Faculty Senate:**

1. Endorse the formation of the *CCE* in order to pursue the tasks listed above as an entity supported and represented by faculty, administration, students, and staff;
2. Advocate for resources and support for the *CCE* to the President and Provost Offices to further explore how university units work with diverse communities as well as ways to advance efforts and enhance benefits; and
3. Agree to (a) engage in an open dialogue over ways to support faculty endeavors in community-engaged scholarship and teaching, (b) review the University's current policies for Tenure and Promotion, and (c) work with the *CCE* to expand the University's definition of scholarship or faculty work, criteria for review, and documentation to be more inclusive of community engaged scholarship.

The university recently completed its application for the Elective Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. We will be notified in January 2015 as to whether we receive that distinguished classification. Regardless of the outcome, the self-study conducted by the Carnegie steering committee speaks volumes about the breadth and scope of community engagement at UNM—from the isolated service-learning course to long-established outreach programs to major university-community research partnerships, it is clear that UNM is indeed an "engaged institution." More than 30 units across campus and from branch campuses self-reported community engagement initiatives ranging from course-based practices to major research partnerships. Additionally, the steering committee conducted research to find examples from schools, colleges, and programs that did not self-report, but that were believed to have courses, outreach programs, and partnerships that fit the parameters of the data collection process.

## **Council Vision**

The *UNM Council for Community Engagement* will promote institutional citizenship, engaging people of all identities, and from all backgrounds, cultures, and communities to create and sustain reciprocal and mutually beneficial local, regional, state, and international partnerships through teaching, research, and service. These partnerships will inform our institutional strategy, practices and culture; bridge our campus to our community; and build knowledge and capacity to solve complex societal challenges.

## **The Purpose of the Council for Community Engagement**

UNM has a large, well-documented portfolio of community-engaged research, teaching, and service that has grown over time as the University has expanded into a diversified research institution strategically located in Central New Mexico. Communities involved are diverse in type, interest and location, from local to global. While community engagement cuts across much of the University, it is more relevant to various academic disciplines than others, and, in some fields, is integral to them. Faculty involvement is a matter of choice—as it should be. Below are four distinct goals for the *CCE*. These are launching points from which the *CCE* will develop a strategic plan for community engagement at UNM.

### *Goal 1: Defining Community Engagement*

A working conceptual model of community engagement would be useful for the UNM community to advance future discussion and inform policy decisions. Community engagement has many types: community-based and applied research; community engaged teaching and learning includes, such as service-learning; and engaged service includes clinical services and service to community groups. As such the *CCE* would:

- Develop and define community engagement at the University of New Mexico, including:
  - Defining service-learning, outreach, and community engaged scholarship;
- Develop a strategic vision for community engagement across all campuses;
- Coordinate CE Strategic vision with current planning initiatives (UNM2020).

### *Goal 2: Community Engaged Scholarship & Faculty Rewards & Incentives*

The articulation between scholarship and community engagement requires focused exploration. While members of the Task Force for Community Engaged Scholarship have varied views, the group agreed that further discussion among interested faculty and administrators is important. UNM's community engagement mission can be more fully elaborated and communicated in relation to its core functions of research, teaching, and service if we continue to explore changes in the faculty rewards systems, particularly in expanding tenure and promotion policy to be more inclusive and supportive of community engaged scholarship. As such, the *CCE* would:

- Assess the faculty reward structure at UNM such that engaged research/work could be acknowledged and honored as a possible area of focus and scholarly work, including:
  - Identifying potential tasks and priorities,
  - Meeting with departments and colleges to discuss individual T&P policies and how/whether CES is centralized within the department,
  - Engaging with Faculty Senate, Academic Freedom & Tenure Committee, Research & Creative Works Council, and others to revise and expand tenure and promotion policies to be inclusive of community engaged scholarship,
  - Establishing a Community Engaged Scholars Network at UNM (and other state institutions) that serves faculty, researchers, and teaching staff who are committed to campus-community partnerships, community-based research, service-learning, and other forms of public scholarship and engagement, and
  - Identify and share respected peer-reviewed outlets for community-engaged scholarship, either in disciplines or interdisciplinary outlets.

### *Goal 3: Community-Engaged Learning and Teaching*

The CCE will investigate the expansion and support of current curricular and co-curricular engagement programs, including a new strategic plan for expanding service-learning and providing faculty development for enhancing courses with service-learning components. Recommendations might include:

- Establishing a criteria and definitions for service-learning courses,
- Establishing a set of course standards and student learning outcomes (SLOs) for all service-learning and community-based research courses,
- Working with the Research Service-Learning Program to expand number and quality of service-learning offerings in all disciplines across campus,
- Establishing a Service-learning Faculty Fellows professional development program in which faculty can design and conduct research on their community based teaching efforts,
- Supporting co-curricular community engagement being done through Student Affairs (Community Engagement Center) by helping establish a community engagement minor of study and supporting with CEC expand and develop other co-curricular initiatives,
- Devising a mechanism for identifying courses that are service-learning (SL) or community-based research (CBR) classes and recommend them as options for students in the General Education core,
- Assessing SLOs in these courses and in the proposed minor, and
- Establish the State's first Campus Compact<sup>1</sup> office and recruit other New Mexico institutions to become members.

#### *Goal 4: Support and Advance Inclusive University-Community Partnerships*

The CCE will seek to establish a point of contact on campus whose sole purpose will be to develop reciprocal relationships to identify mutual needs and benefits, set agendas for positive change, implement strategies, and assess results and welcome all community members.

- Identify grant opportunities and work with the Research Office to support service-learning and community engagement at UNM.
- Create a tool to measure university-community impact of service-learning, research, outreach, and partnerships.
- Assess effectiveness in achieving departmental, divisional and institutional goals. Strive to constantly improve standards in curricular co-curricular programs and to increase quantity and quality of student input in academic and student affairs.
- Maintain a knowledge base and build a resource library concerning current national and global trends and developments within areas of responsibility.
- Support CCE's outreach and media efforts including creating a website to promote CCE efforts.
- Work with UNM departments, offices, and programs to promote community engagement.
- Develop policies related to community engaged teaching and projects, including memoranda of understanding, student and community partner orientations, safety assurances, etc.
- Regularly report to University on all initiatives.

UNM is already well along the path to realizing the vision presented above because of the many meaningful contributions faculty, students, and staff are making every day. The goal of the CCE during the 2014-2015 academic year will be to identify manageable opportunities to enhance efforts to increase recognition and impact and to coordinate those efforts with schools, colleges, departments, and the UNM 2020 Strategic Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> *Campus Compact is a national coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents — representing some 6 million students — who are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education. As the only national higher education association dedicated solely to campus-based civic engagement, Campus Compact promotes public and community service that develops students' citizenship skills, helps campuses forge effective community partnerships, and provides resources and training for faculty seeking to integrate civic and community-based learning into the curriculum. New Mexico does not yet have a Campus Compact, which would link all of the institutions in the state.*