

## ACADEMY OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP CONCEPT PAPER

**Mission and Scope.** The mission of the Academy of Community Engagement Scholarship (ACES) shall be to serve the public good by recognizing and contributing to high quality scholarship that—in active collaboration with participating community partners—has a positive impact on complex societal needs and issues.

Through the involvement of leading community engagement scholars and practitioners, and their most knowledgeable, collaborative, and effective community counterparts, ACES will explore critical and complex societal and community issues and provide recommendations, upon request, to inform local, regional, national, and international research and policy agendas. ACES will seek to ensure that all scholarly activities and policy initiatives take into account the needs, voices, and perspectives of all individuals, groups, communities, and constituents involved. ACES shall ascribe to the belief that rigor is not based solely in procedures used, but also in the openness and transparency of the scholarly enterprise in ways that value and welcome active participation on an equal and mutually respectful basis by community counterparts, encouraging shared authority and responsibility for the process. In the practice and study of community engagement, ACES shall work to advance an agenda for recognition and accomplishment of community engagement scholarship that establishes the highest standards for co-creation of knowledge impacting university disciplinary research, communities, and society in wise, positive, and productive ways.

ACES shall be a broad voice representing allied groups in the field of engagement, and a common thread for the support of community engagement. Examples of work ACES may undertake include:

- Preparing authoritative reports benchmarking the impact of community-university partnerships and identifying models of outstanding community engagement;
- Issuing policy-guidance statements on important issues related to society and the role of community engagement in addressing the issues;
- Partnering with other organizations around funding opportunities and issues that lead to informed public policy related to community engagement;
- Publishing best practices of scholarly engagement, community engagement, and service learning; and
- Sponsoring and conducting transdisciplinary workshops and think tanks that address important societal issues and the relationship with community engagement.

**Rationale.** Honorary academies recognize individuals for outstanding accomplishment in their disciplinary areas. Organizations devoted to promoting university, civic, and community engagement also exist. While these groups advance the work of engagement in meaningful ways, no single organization brings together the best minds in the field of engagement to examine all facets of engagement, thus bringing attention to the important role that community engagement plays in strengthening research for the betterment of society. No organization regularly pairs the most respected scholarly and community engagement leaders to consider and recommend how best to address regional, national, and global issues from both scholarly and societal perspectives. ACES shall fulfill these purposes.

The way we create knowledge is changing, both in and outside higher education institutions; boundaries between knowledge creators and users are crumbling, presenting a unique opportunity to recognize and advocate for the highest quality engagement scholarship. An academy that champions the use of shared intellectual and community resources has the potential to produce better outcomes for communities, society, and higher education institutions. Reasons for establishing ACES now include:

- More universities, academic institutions, and faculty are involved in community engagement than ever before, and an international movement is developing;
- Faculty engagement has reached disciplinary and accreditation associations, and a knowledge base has developed, along with well-established networks and discourse communities;
- Universities are giving significant attention to structures and processes for supporting and encouraging faculty engagement with their community counterparts in their work;
- Think tanks, associations, and major projects are focused on integrating community engagement scholarship within core educational missions; and
- Major funding agencies in the U.S. such as the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health require grant applications to include a statement of the societal impact of the proposed work.

**Membership.** Candidates for ACES membership shall be engagement scholars and community leaders demonstrating notable contributions to the theory and practice of working collaboratively to address societal needs, advance community engagement, and advance the scholarship of community engagement. Election to ACES will be based on nomination and rigorous review of a prospective member's body of work. Members of ACES shall:

- Be individual, lifetime members (not groups or institutions);
- Represent a broad range of community and university competencies that reflect the diverse perspectives necessary for high quality community engagement; and
- Be committed to using engagement scholarship practices, approaches, and values to respectfully and collaboratively address society's most pressing needs and issues.

**Benefits.** ACES will provide numerous benefits for varied entities and purposes. Members will enjoy mostly honorific benefits, chief among them being selected to serve the greater good by advocating for community engagement and advancing disciplinary and transdisciplinary scholarly activities and knowledge. Institutions and their faculties will benefit from ACES' promotion of community engagement and the scholarship that will benefit future scholars and practitioners of community engagement. Communities will realize greater integration of university, scholarly, and community assets, creating the potential for developing and sustaining more successful communities. Public policy will gain a catalyst in ACES for leveraging the learning, discovery, and engagement capacity of higher education and communities to influence private and public leaders to solve societal problems and recommend innovations needed by society.

ACES will provide a non-partisan, transdisciplinary, research- and practice-based voice for advancing the study and development of partnerships between institutions of higher education and the private, public, and governmental sectors. Such partnerships address society's most complex and challenging issues—including, but not limited to, education, economic development and well-being, the environment, health and wellness, and active citizenship—while advancing disciplinary knowledge.

**Academy of Community Engagement Scholarship [ACES]  
Think Tank MEMBERS**

1. **Burton Bargerstock**, Co-Director, National Collaborative for the Study of University Engagement; and Director, Communication and Information Technology, University Outreach and Engagement, Michigan State University
2. **Linda K. Benning**, Associate Director, Extension and Outreach, Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, Washington, DC
3. **Lynn Blanchard**, Director, Carolina Center for Public Service, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
4. **Karen Bruns**, Assistant Director, Family & Consumer Sciences Leader, OSU CARES/OSU Extension, Ohio State University, Ohio State University
5. **Katy Campbell**, Professor and Dean, Faculty of Extension University of Alberta, and Engagement Scholarship Consortium Board
6. **Jeri Childers**, Fellow, Center for Organizational & Technological Advancement, Virginia Tech
7. **Janet Conner**, Director, Strategy, Planning, and Faculty Student Engagement, Pennsylvania State University
8. **Ellis Cowling**, University Distinguished Professor At-Large Emeritus, NC State University
9. **David Cox**, Executive Assistant to the President, The University of Memphis
10. **Hiram Fitzgerald**, Associate Provost for University Outreach and Engagement; University Distinguished Professor, Department of Psychology, Michigan State University and Engagement Scholarship Consortium Board
11. **Nancy Franklin**, Assistant Director, Outreach, Pennsylvania State University
12. **Nancy Franz**, Associate Dean for Extension and Outreach for Families and 4-H Youth Development, Iowa State University
13. **Andrew Furco**, Associate Vice President for Public Engagement,; Associate Professor, Organizational Leadership, Policy and Development; Director, International Center for Research on Community Engagement; University of Minnesota, and Engagement Scholarship Consortium Board
14. **Philip Greasley**, Former Associate Provost, University Engagement, University of Kentucky
15. **Budd Hall**, Director of the University of Victoria's Office of Community-Based Research (OCBR), University of Victoria
16. **Lyla Houglum**, Executive Director for WEDA, and Director of Special Initiatives, Oregon State University
17. **Audrey Jaeger**, Associate Professor of Education; Executive Director of the National Initiative for Leadership and Institutional Effectiveness (NILIE)
18. **Trish Kalivoda**, Senior Associate Vice President, and Editor, Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement, Office of Vice President for Public Service and Outreach, University of Georgia
19. **Teresa Mangum**, Director, Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, University of Iowa
20. **Michael Martin**, Chancellor, Louisiana State University
21. **Kerry Ann O'Meara**, Associate Professor; Higher Education, University of Maryland, College Park
22. **Joan Pennell**, Professor and Center Director, Center for Family and Community Engagement, NC State University
23. **Scott J. Peters**, Imagining America, Co-Director, Syracuse University, and former Associate Editor of the Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement, and Associate Professor of Education, Cornell University
24. **Samory Pruitt**, Vice President, Community Affairs, University of Alabama
25. **Roger Rennekamp**, Associate Dean for Outreach and Engagement, College of Public Health and Human Sciences, Oregon State University
26. **John Saltmarsh**, NE Resource Center for Higher Education, University of Massachusetts at Boston
27. **Lorilee Sandmann**, Department of Lifelong Education, Administration and Policy, University of Georgia
28. **Mary Evans Sias**, President, Kentucky State University

29. **Patricia (Pat) M. Sobrero**, Professor and Extension Education Specialist, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Convener and facilitator for the ACES Think Tank; formerly Associate Vice Chancellor, Office of Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development, NC State University (2008-2011).
30. **Courtney Thornton**, Research Director, University of North Carolina General Administration
31. **Craig Weidemann**, CEO Executive Committee and Chair 2010 Vice President Outreach, Pennsylvania State University, and Engagement Scholarship Consortium Board
32. **Jim Zuiches**, Former Vice Chancellor, Office of Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development, NC State University