Community-Engaged Scholarship
College of Education
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College of Education Community Engaged Scholarship

The College of Education defines Community Engaged Scholarship as “a form of scholarship that cuts across teaching, research [and creative activities], and service. It involves co-constructing, transmitting, and applying knowledge for the direct benefit of local and global communities, sovereign nations, and/or organizations (nonprofit, non-governmental organization, government agency, schools or school districts, etc.) in ways that are consistent with university missions as well as community needs” (Adapted from MSU’s Website https://engage.msu.edu/about/overview/common-types-of-community-engaged-scholarship-reported-by-faculty).

Community Engaged Scholarship involves scholars and community members working as equal, collaborative partners engaged in a reciprocal exchange of information, ideas, and expertise as well as some level of shared decision making that is culturally and linguistically appropriate. CES advances knowledge that places community empowerment at the center of this work (Adapted from Rich Wood’s (Interim Provost) Memo, November 27, 2018).

All scholarship, including community engaged scholarship:
- Requires high level of disciplinary (or interdisciplinary) expertise
- Uses sound and appropriate methodology
- Is appropriately and effectively documented and disseminated to (academic and community) audiences, with reflective critique about significance, processes, and lessons learned
- Has significance beyond the individual context (breaks new ground, innovative, can be replicated or elaborated)
- Documents the significant impact (product, process, and/or results) that the work has had in communities.
- Demonstrates ethical practice, adhering to codes of conduct in research, teaching, and the discipline

This means that community engaged scholarship is not
- Serving on a departmental committee
- Serving on a university-wide committee
- Serving on a disciplinary committee
- Simply volunteering
- Conducting outside work for pay, with no connection or benefit to your departmental/unit missions

By community, we mean groups of people who share commonalities, including:
- Geography

1 Approved by COE faculty on September 3, 2019.
• Identity
• Affiliation or interest
• Circumstance
• Profession or practice
• Faith
• Family/kin

By engaged, we mean the work can be described as:
• Scholarly
• Systemic
• Collaborative
• Transformative
• Asset based
• Mutually beneficial
• Capacity building
• For the public good

By scholarship, we mean the work is described as:
• based on existing scholarship,
• best practices and understandings AND
• generative of new understandings and scholarly products for academic and public audiences.

Community Engaged Research and Creative Activities

Engaged research and creative activities are associated with the discovery of new knowledge, the development of new insights, and the creation of new artistic or literary performances and expressions—in collaboration with community partners.

Community Engaged Research
• Community-based, participatory research
• Applied research
• Contractual research (funded by government, non-governmental organizations, or businesses)
• Demonstration projects
• Needs and assets assessments
• Program evaluations

Community Engaged Creative Activity
• Collaboratively created, produced, or performed
  o Film
  o Theater
  o Music
  o Performance
  o Sculpture
  o Writing
Community Engaged Teaching and Learning

Engaged teaching/learning is organized around sharing knowledge with various audiences through either formal or informal arrangements. Types of engaged teaching vary by relationship among the teacher, the learner, and the learning context. Engaged teaching may be for-credit or not-for-credit, guided by a teacher, or self-directed.

Formal (For-Credit)
- Service-learning
- Community engaged research as part of university classes
- Study abroad programs with community engagement components
- Online and off-campus education

Non-formal (Not-for-Credit)
- Pre-college programs for youth in K-12
- Occupational short course, certificate, and licensure programs
- Conferences, seminars, not-for-credit classes, and workshops
- Educational enrichment programs for the public and alumni

Informal (Not-for-Credit)
- Media interviews or "translational" writing for general public audiences
- Materials to enhance public understanding
- Self-directed, managed learning environments, such as museums, libraries, or gardens

Community Engaged Service and Practice

Engaged service and practice are associated with the use of university expertise to address specific issues (ad hoc or long-term) identified by individuals, organizations, or communities. This type of engagement is not primarily driven by a research question, though a research question may be of secondary interest in the activity.

- Technical assistance
- Consulting
- Policy analysis
- Expert testimony
- Legal advice
- Clinical practice
- Diagnostic services
- Human and animal patient care
- Advisory boards and other disciplinary-related service to community organizations
Evidence

The College of Education recognizes that research for tenure and promotion purposes needs to be peer reviewed. We also recognize that community engaged scholarship has diverse avenues of dissemination in addition to peer-reviewed publications. A plan for dissemination should be part of this evidence.

Community engaged scholars must provide evidence of the impact of their work and the time and efforts spent in developing meaningful, culturally/linguistically responsive relationships. Based on COE’s Differentiated Faculty Workload Policy approved by faculty on 8/19/16, unpaid requested/commissioned special project scholarship document/product by a sovereign nation may be excluded from peer review (See COE’s Differentiated Faculty Workload Policy).

In presenting evidence of the impact of this work, consider including, but not limited to, the following:

Examples of Collaboratively Planned Research:

* Conference Presentations
* Creative Works
* Community Forums
* Grant-writing
* Leading Funded or Unfunded Research Projects
* Planning documents to collaboratively create the research project
* Publications
* Reports to Tribal Leadership, Tribal Programs etc.
* Submission of research protocols to Tribal IRBs
* Reporting requirements to Tribal IRBs
* Surveys
* White papers

Examples of Community Engaged Creative Activity:

- Film
- Theater
- Music
- Performance
- Sculpture
- Writing
- Spoken words
- Multi-media
- Exhibitions
- Visual Arts

Examples of Teaching:

* Curriculum Development
* Professional Development
Examples of Service:
* Activism/Advocacy Efforts at a Local, State, National, and/or Global Level
* Internal organizational support
* Providing Academic Expertise

References

https://engage.msu.edu/about/overview/common-types-of-community-engaged-scholarship-reported-by-faculty

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