

# Transforming Community Engagement into Scholarship

Kathleen Long, West Virginia Wesleyan College

Deirdre Mageean, East Carolina University

Pamela Stacks, San Jose State University

# A little about WVWC & community engagement into scholarship

- Small liberal arts institution with 8 graduate programs in north central WV (rural mountain location)
- Began service learning involvement in early 1990s and became a Bonner Foundation college
- For 16 years, had much going on but, not integrated or connected; rather silos of “doing good” a la John Wesley
- In 2008 formed Center for Community Engagement and now CE is integrated more into curriculum & policy and applied research opportunities are incorporated in graduate programs

# Brief history

- early 1990s – civic education and campus-community partnerships
- mid 1990s – Ernest Boyer’s The Scholarship of Engagement among other texts
- late 1990s – Kellogg Commission redefined “service” to make it integral with scholarship
- mid 2000s – Carnegie Foundation announced a new *elective* classification – Community Engagement

# Definition

Community Engagement is “the collaboration between higher education institutions and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity” (Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, 2007, p.3)

# Categories – Carnegie elective

Three categories; now one\* :

- Curricular Engagement
  - Outreach & Partnerships
  - \*Curricular Engagement and Outreach & Partnerships
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- Three cycles now complete: 2006, 2008 & 2010
  - Next cycle 2015

# Carnegie Foundation

## *Community Engagement*

- **voluntary** or elective classification
- requires additional **data** collections & **documentation**
- require **effort** by participating institution
- recognizes important aspects of an institutions **mission**
- elective classification **≠** comprehensive nat'l assessment
- absence of classification **≠** judgment of an institution's commitment to its community

# Scholarship of engagement – many terms

- engaged scholarship
  - scholarly engagement
  - community engaged scholarship
  - public scholarship
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- “consists of (1) research, teaching, integration and application scholarship that (2) incorporate reciprocal practices of civic engagement into the production of knowledge” (Barker, 2004, p.124)

# Engaged scholarship

- multi-faceted practices
- a distinct dimension of the engagement movement
- evolving into a distinctive scholarly expression building upon, yet differing from traditional scholarship

## Connection to graduate programs

- many new journals as opportunities for publication
- revised definitions of scholarship in tenure and promotion standards beginning or need to begin



# Two cases studies

- East Carolina University - Dierdre Mageen
- San Jose University – Pamela Stacks