

## Engaged Scholarship among University of Memphis Faculty: A Plan for the Future - October 30, 2012

By Engaged Scholarship Faculty Committee

### The Status Community Engagement and Engaged Scholarship at UM

A core component of the UM's mission and strategic plan, engaged scholarship (ES) has become a core research and teaching practice among faculty, generating substantial external funds, driving scholarly production, enhancing student retention, and bringing national attention to the University.

#### External Funding = \$535,000

- Over 20% of CAS faculty in the PI Millionaire's Grantee Club are doing engaged scholarship
- 2008 - Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, the United Way of the Mid-South, and UM Research Foundation for the Strengthening Communities Initiative (SCI) (\$500,000)
- 2009 - National Endowment for the Arts for Strengthening Communities Initiative Summit (\$25,000)
- 2011 - Learning by Giving Foundation for Strengthening Communities (\$10,000)

#### Scholarly Productivity

- 56% of faculty have at least one (and up to ten or more) scholarly products from community engagement (ESFC Survey).
- In just 4 years SCI faculty produced 7 scholarly publications (3 in print, 4 submitted) and given 23 scholarly presentations.

#### Student Benefit

- 52% of faculty mentor students in internships (ESFC Survey)
- 56% of faculty incorporates Service Learning either currently or in the past (ESFC Survey)
- 8 completed SCI projects involved 212 students (81 UG/31 Grad) through courses, internships, and GAs

#### Image and Reputation

- 2006 – UM classified as 'Community Engaged' for Curricular Engagement and Outreach Partnerships by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.
- 2011 - Dr. Katherine Lambert-Pennington received the Ernest A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty.
- 2012 – UM's Nonprofit Leaders Student Association (NLSA) received the Program Excellence Award from the National Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (formerly American Humanics).
- 2012 - Dr. Stan Hyland will receive the 2012 Solon T. Kimball Award for Public and Applied Anthropology at the American Anthropological Association's annual meeting (Nov).

According to the findings of the Engaged Scholarship Faculty Committee (ESFC) 2012 Survey on Community Engagement, most faculty realize that engaged scholarship is part of the university mission (60%). While many faculty are conducting (56%) or would like to be involved in engaged scholarship (additional 30% or respondents), only 35% find that it is widely rewarded. Only 10% believe that it is supported through on-campus infrastructure and just 11% feel it is assessed for its value in the wider community. Currently, we have two mechanisms for coordinating and supporting engaged scholarship on campus.

<b>Engaged Scholarship Faculty Committee EFSC</b>	<b>The Strengthening Communities Initiative (SCI)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Established in 2006 to provide campus-wide connection, vision, &amp; education about ES</li><li>• Launched website in 2010 (<a href="http://www.memphis.edu/esfc/aboutesfc.php">www.memphis.edu/esfc/aboutesfc.php</a>)</li><li>• Conducted 2012 survey of faculty to assess state of community involvement</li><li>• To date 4 ESFC faculty have received Excellence in Engaged Scholarship Award</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leverages \$25k from UM Research Foundation with \$70k from Community Foundation of Greater Memphis – 4:1 return on investment</li><li>• Provides only targeted funding for faculty pursuing engaged research agenda – 23 faculty funded to date</li><li>• In 4 years, \$347,380 invested in SCI projects generated \$1million additional private and public investment.</li></ul>

## **Recommendations and Priorities**

Long term, the impact of ES with only this very modest infrastructure is limited and unsustainable. Faculty indicate a strong desire for a more fully developed institutional support system at both university and departmental levels. While establishing a campus-wide Center for Community Engagement was a top priority for ESFC Survey respondents (57%), faculty provided several other recommendations including (1) highlighting ES in recruitment and fund raising materials; (2) providing ES mentors for less experienced faculty; (3) providing a variety of financial incentives; (4) making ES a priority in faculty hiring; and, (5) developing an institutional strategy for tracking for ES. From this, our recommendations are:

### **Immediate Term (9-12 months)**

**Centralization/Coordination** - Shore up the infrastructure we currently have and build our future capacity for coordination through:

- Provost-level support for Faculty component of Strengthening Communities Initiative (\$25k). Without this support, UM will have to withdraw from SCI.
- Provost-level support for Graduate Assistantship to assist the Engaged Scholarship Faculty Committee with outreach and planning and coordination of activities.
- Provost-level support to bring Hiram Fitzgerald (U of Michigan) and John Saltmarsh (New England Resource Center for Higher Education) to campus to share models and best practices of campus-wide coordination vehicles for engaged scholarship.

**Faculty Development** - Increase awareness of engaged scholarship

- Engaged Scholarship Faculty Committee will develop a "brief" for ES website as a reference for faculty and community partners (Spring 2013)
- Engaged Scholarship Faculty Committee will undertake a series of meetings with departments and/or small groups of faculty to talk about engaged scholarship (Fall 2013)

**Institutional Tracking** – Establish baseline understanding of faculty and student involvement in ES

- Request Office of Institutional Research to determine which data currently being collected could be used to track faculty doing service learning and engaged scholarship

### **Mid-Term (within 24 months) – Formally Institutionalize Engaged Scholarship**

**Centralization of ES** –Develop campus-wide ES coordinating infrastructure

- Establish Office or Center for Community Engagement

**Faculty Development** - Grow number of faculty conducting engaged scholarship

- Develop ES faculty mentoring program
- Provide small financial incentives for faculty doing service learning related to ES

**Institutional Data Collection/Tracking** – Enhance tracking of faculty and students involvement in ES

- Institutionalize tracking mechanisms for student and faculty doing service learning and/or ES
- Designation of service learning courses in course catalogue

### **Long Term (within 5 years) - Engaged Scholarship Integrated into all Sectors of University, City, and Region**

**Centralization of ES** – Office/Center staffed and funded in a sustainable and integrated way

**Faculty Development** – Broaden involvement of faculty across all the Colleges and Schools

**Institutional Data Collection/Tracking** –Formalize and standardize tracking of ES across all Colleges and Schools