

Defining the Language of Community Engagement

Although there are many accepted definitions of service-learning, TSU has approved the following definitions to guide our discussions and work:

Civic Engagement

Civic engagement denotes “collaborative activity that builds on the resources, skills, expertise, and knowledge of the campus and community to improve the quality of life and to advance the campus mission. Civic engagement includes teaching, research, and service in and with the community.” (Bringle and Hatcher, 2004)

Service-Learning

Service-learning is a course-based, credit-bearing educational experience in which students (a) participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs and (b) reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of personal values and civic responsibility. (Bringle, R., Hatcher, J., & McIntosh, R. Analyzing Morton’s Typology of Service Paradigms and Integrity. Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning, Fall 2006, Vol 13, No. 1)

Engaged Scholarship

The National Review Board for the Scholarship of Engagement defines engaged scholarship as “scholarship in the areas of teaching, research, and/or service. It engages faculty in academically relevant work that simultaneously meets campus mission and goals as well as community needs. In essence, it is a scholarly agenda that integrates community issues. In this definition, community is broadly defined to include audiences external to the campus that are part of a collaborative process to contribute to the public good.”

Community Engagement

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

http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/classification/Community_Engagement