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37 Developing a Strategic Approach to Social Responsiveness at the University of Cape Town

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University of Cape Town

Collaborative community-engaged scholarship has roots in many parts of the world, and engaged practitioners and researchers are increasingly finding each other and sharing resources globally. This article focuses on a "social responsiveness" initiative at the University of Cape Town. Its story, told here by three University of Cape Town colleagues, illustrates the possibilities and complexities of this work in southern Africa. While strongly contextualized there, it also illustrates how the University of Cape Town has both benefited from and contributed to the broader international discussions taking place through TRUCEN (The Research University Civic Engagement Network), the Talloires Network, and other means.

61Bringing Public Engagement into an Academic Plan and its Assessment Metrics

*Preston A. Britner
University of Connecticut*

This article describes how public engagement was incorporated into a research university's current Academic Plan, how the public engagement metrics were selected and adopted, and how those processes led to subsequent strategic planning. Some recognition of the importance of civic engagement has followed, although there are many areas in which further research and support are needed. These experiences are shared in the interest of generating ideas about the roles of leadership, planning, data, and recognition in promoting and strengthening a university's commitment to civic engagement.

GOAL TWO

Encourage research on different forms of civic engagement and give greater visibility to this growing field of scholarship.

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This article describes and analyzes the origins, work to date, and future of the Talloires Network, an international association of institutions committed to strengthening the civic roles and social responsibilities of higher education. Included are reflections on the network's strategies for advancing civic engagement in higher education globally, with particular attention to both the successes and the limitations of these strategies. The experience of the network to date may help to illuminate opportunities and challenges with respect to international dimensions of university civic engagement.

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John D. Reiff and Arthur S. Keene

University of Massachusetts

This article introduces the Citizen Scholars Program, a 2-year service-learning and leadership development program that integrates theory and practice to help students develop the knowledge, skills, and vision the authors believe they need in order to build community, be effective citizens, and advocate for social justice. The authors present 16 learning objectives, five methods used to assess the program, 17 program best practices, and four program challenges.

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to Engage Students with the University's
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Paul H. Matthews

University of Georgia

A "student scholars" program was developed to engage undergraduates at a large, public, land-grant research university with its public service and outreach mission, through cohort meetings, supervised internships, and site visits. Qualitative and pre-/post-participation quantitative data from the first cohort of 10 students show that participants gained deeper understanding of the university's public service and outreach mission, purpose, and activities, and developed skills appropriate to engaging in this work themselves. Such a program holds promise for creating a core of informed student advocates for the university's public service and outreach mission and engagement work as well as improving these students' own competencies and motivations for incorporating public service and outreach into their academic and professional careers.

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