

Strategic Planning Organization Team
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
DRAFT

From the “Taking Charge of Our Future” Resolution by the Board of Trustees, March, 2019

Build strategic, strong, and purposeful collaborations with external community stakeholders the outcomes of which include mutually beneficial impact and influence via applied scholarship, experiential education and service learning that fulfills our role as one of several entities anchored to and contributing to the prosperity of the region and beyond and brings faculty, students, local residents, business, non-profits, innovative partners and government together in projects in ways that stretch their perspectives beyond individual experiences and addresses diversity and inclusion, community, regional and world needs from the perspective that the university and the region are a collaborative living and learning community.

What is community engagement?

Community engagement is the mutual and self-discovery of information, ideas, and solutions or outcomes via applied scholarship, experiential education, co-curricular, and service learning, partnerships that are mutually beneficial to all stakeholders and advance the economic, social, and civic health of the region and beyond.

How can we achieve/build strategic, strong, and purposeful collaboration with external community stakeholders?

This can be achieved by determining an over-arching framework, such as prosperity, education, health and arts/culture, to guide decision-making regarding the types of community engagement in which the university community participates. Thriving communities have well-developed capacity and capabilities in these framework areas, and YSU is committed to advancing this framework from a foundational commitment to social justice, equity, and advancement as a guiding principle in all of our collaborations.

This will be achieved through:

- Assuring clarity in the value proposition for engaging in the activity.
- Affirming there is a compelling case for use of time and effort related to the activity.
- Agreeing that mutually beneficial outcomes will be derived from a successful activity.
- Understanding and articulating the impact of participating in the activity.
- Recognizing the activities that demonstrate mutually beneficial outcomes and that illustrate their resultant impact and influence.
- To the greatest extent possible aligning activities with attributes of institutional learning outcomes.
- Understanding that value and benefit are fluid terms and that impact can be a long-range deliverable
- Ensuring that partnerships are intentional in inclusive, equitable, and accessible systems, practices, and goals.
- Agree to a high level of consistent, almost constant communication at all stages of project development, execution, conclusion, and feedback.

- Creating a clearinghouse of current community engagement initiatives to aid with alignment of institutional priorities.

Academic programs that exhibit strategic, strong, and purposeful collaboration with external community stakeholders:

- Align community engagement activities with academic program-, college- and university-level goals.
- Focus and align such activities so as to maximize success and to realize the benefits of participating in such activities
- Ideally engage the community both on-campus as well as off-campus
- Co-create knowledge and action by harnessing the resources and human capital of the university and the community to advance quality of life for the city, the campus, and the region