Introduction

Eastern Washington University is committed to developing opportunities for students that are transformative and cultivate “professionally, socially and culturally engaged leaders, citizens and communities.” Service to others and engagement with our community is a critical piece of this educational mission. Eastern Washington University’s newly established Office of Community Engagement supports this institutional mission by connecting the campus to the wider community though meaningful, reciprocal partnerships in order to enrich student learning, address critical community need and foster a culture of civic responsibility and community engagement.

The office supports students, faculty and community partners engaged in service and community-based work. We provide logistical support and training to campus and community partners in order to promote the creation of mutually beneficial partnerships aimed at strengthening our local and regional communities. The office is a resource for campus constituencies interested planning service projects, participating in academic and co-curricular service-learning experiences, and acts as a centralized “hub” for community members interested in developing partnerships with the institution.

With the guidance and input of the Community Engagement Advisory Board, the Office of Community Engagement has developed a mission and strategic priorities which seek to:

- Promote faculty practice in service-learning and community-engaged scholarship
- Expand community-engaged learning opportunities for students
- Develop and strengthen campus-community partnerships
- Develop strategies for assessing student learning outcomes and community impact
- Increase visibility of EWU’s community engagement efforts
- Develop resources to support the growth of the office

Implementation

Our five-year strategic plan provides a pathway for the development and expansion of community engagement efforts at EWU. It includes strategies, annual goals and action steps to institutionalize community engagement efforts at EWU. Annually, the plan will be revisited and updated and inform our annual work plans.
**OUR MISSION**

The Office of Community Engagement connects the university to the wider community through meaningful, reciprocal partnerships in order to enrich student learning, address critical community need and foster a culture of civic responsibility and community engagement.

This work is accomplished by:

- Providing students opportunities to engage in meaningful service both in and out of the classroom.

- Supporting faculty practice in service-learning, community-based research, and community-engaged scholarship and creative activities.

- Developing mutually beneficial partnerships to strengthen our local, regional and global communities.

**OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

1. Deepen faculty practice in service-learning, community-engaged scholarship and civic engagement. *(STUDENT SUCCESS, INNOVATION, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, VISIBILITY)*

- Provide faculty resources and ongoing training in community-based learning best practices.
- Provide logistical support for service-learning and community-based research courses.
- Develop a community of scholarship among EWU faculty that shares knowledge, encourages innovation, and advocates for service-learning and community engagement on our campus.
- Encourage the creation of institutional incentives and rewards for faculty engaged in community-based learning and scholarship.
- Promote opportunities for faculty to publish and present on community-based scholarship and research.
II. Provide EWU students transformative community-engaged learning opportunities which develop their civic and leadership capacities. (STUDENT SUCCESS, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT)

- Provide training, orientation and logistical support to students engaged in academic or co-curricular service.
- Increase student awareness of community engagement opportunities (e.g., designated service-learning courses, published volunteer opportunities, community event calendar).
- Increase the number of community-based learning opportunities (service-learning, community-based research) offered to students across majors, year in school, or academic and social interests.
- Develop opportunities for student involvement and leadership in academic and co-curricular service-learning.
- Create programming which seeks to develop students’ civic and leadership skills.

III. Develop and strengthen campus-community partnerships. (INNOVATION, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, VISIBILITY)

- Serve as the “point of entry” for community entities interested in partnering with the institution and connect these entities with appropriate faculty members or departments.
- Seek to address community needs through the development of relevant, responsive, and reciprocal partnerships.
- Represent EWU on community boards, community initiative committees and work groups (e.g, Inland Northwest Service-Learning Partnership (INSLP), United Way Cradle to Career Committee, Our Kids Our Business).
- Provide community partner training and development in community-based learning best practices.
- Provide mechanisms for community partners to promote service opportunities and connect with potential volunteers.
- Solicit feedback from community partners to continually inform and improve partnerships.

IV. Continually improve programs and practices through ongoing assessment of student learning outcomes as well as institutional and community impacts. (STUDENT SUCCESS, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT)

- Develop and assess community-based learning outcomes for EWU students.
- Utilize results of student learning assessment data to inform program revision and design.
- Develop mechanisms to capture community partner feedback and assess community perceptions of institutional engagement efforts.
• Utilize community assessment data to inform institutional partnership strategies, training needs and program design.
• Work in partnership with campus partners to develop mechanism to measure impact of institutional engagement in the following areas: impact on students, on faculty, on community, and on the institution.
• Utilize data collected from institutional impact measures to inform the practice and design of community engagement programs.

V. Support institutional efforts to increase recognition of EWU as an Engaged Campus. (VISIBILITY)

• Apply for National Community Service Honor Roll.
• Assist institutional efforts in applying for the Carnegie Community Engaged Campus Classification.
• Work with Marketing and Communications to develop website and marketing materials to showcase the Office of Community Engagement’s programs and initiatives.
• Work with Marketing and Communications on the Engaged Magazine to highlight EWU’s innovative engagement efforts.
• Encourage dissemination of institutional best practices and innovative community-engaged scholarship through presentations at regional and national conferences and scholarly publications.
• Work with institutional partners to increase prospective students and alumni awareness about EWU’s commitment to community engagement.

VI. Develop resources to support the growth of the Office of Community Engagement. (VISIBILITY)

• Seek institutional funding to support program growth (e.g., providing appropriate staffing levels).
• Seek external funding (grants) to support community engagement initiatives and project development.
• Develop fundraising efforts dedicated to supporting community engagement.