



Forms of Community Engagement

Direct Service: Giving personal time and energy to address immediate community needs. Examples include tutoring, serving food at a shelter, building or repairing homes, and neighborhood park clean-ups.

Community Research: Exploring a community to learn about its assets and how it is being affected by current social problems. This form of community engagement provides knowledge that other efforts can build upon.

Advocacy and Education: Using various modes of persuasion (e.g., petitions, marches, letter-writing) to convince government or corporate decision-makers to make choices that will benefit the community. Raising public awareness of social issues by giving speeches to community groups, distributing written materials to the general public, or providing educational activities in schools.

Capacity Building: Working with the diverse constituencies of a community and building on existing assets to solve problems and make it a better place. Creating a space for everyone in the community to have a say in what the community should be like and how to get there.

Political Involvement: Participating in processes of government such as campaigning and voting. This includes keeping informed about issues in the local, national, and global communities in order to vote responsibly and engaging in discourse and debate about current social issues.

Socially Responsible Personal and Professional Behavior: Maintaining a sense of responsibility to the welfare of others when making personal or professional decisions. Using one's career or professional training to benefit the community. This category describes personal lifestyle choices that reflect commitment to one's values: recycling, driving a hybrid car, or bicycling to work; buying or not buying certain products because of unjust corporate policies or choosing to work for companies with socially just priorities.

Philanthropic Giving: Donating funding or needed items; organizing or participating in fundraising events.

Participation in Associations: Participating in community organizations that develop the social networks that provide a foundation for community-building efforts including civic associations, sports leagues, church choirs, and school boards.

Wagner, W. & Owen, J.E. (In press). Situating service-learning in the context of civic engagement and the engaged campus. In B. Jacoby (Ed.), *Establishing and sustaining the community service-learning professional: A guide for self-directed learning*. Providence, R.I.: Campus Compact.