

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD APPLICATION GUIDE



MISSISSIPPI STATE
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About the Mississippi State University Excellence in Community Engagement Award

The Mississippi State University Excellence in Community Engagement Award recognizes outstanding accomplishment in community engagement in the categories of Community-Engaged Service, Community-Engaged Teaching and Learning, Community-Engaged Research, and Scholarship of Engagement. Community Engagement describes collaboration between MSU and partnering communities for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. Communities are broadly defined as groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interests, or situational similarities at the local, regional/state, national, or global levels.

The most outstanding example of a community engagement project or program in each of these four areas will receive a grant to further community engagement within Mississippi State's threefold mission of learning, research, and service.

Please refer to page 6 of this guide for details on submitting a project.

Mississippi State University's Institutional Commitment to Community Engagement Statement

The story of community engagement at Mississippi State University traces back to our founding in 1878. Mississippi State was chartered as a public, land-grant institution to improve the lives of Mississippians by providing a quality education regardless of the learner's social class. In relatively rapid succession, MSU's mission grew to include research in the public interest through the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station and the extension of this research into the populace through MSU Extension. Since inception, MSU has provided economic, intellectual, cultural, social, and professional development, not only for our students, faculty, and staff, but also for people in communities throughout the state, across the nation, and around the globe. Mississippi State celebrates our land-grant mission - we are "the people's university", empowered to fuel the educational, social, and economic progress across our state and around the globe through our continued commitment to community engagement. Mississippi State's commitment to community engagement remains central to our mission as evidenced in receiving the Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement Classification and being perennially selected as a U.S. President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Recipient.

UNDERSTANDING THE BREADTH OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

FOR A BRIEF VIDEO ABOUT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, GO TO:

[HTTP://WWW.SERVICELEARNING.MSSTATE.EDU/ABOUT/WHATIS/](http://www.servicelearning.msstate.edu/about/whatis/)

UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Engagement in Mississippi State University's Mission of Learning, Research, and Service

MODEL OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement describes collaboration between MSU and partnering communities for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity while fulfilling MSU's mission of scholarly teaching, research, and service.

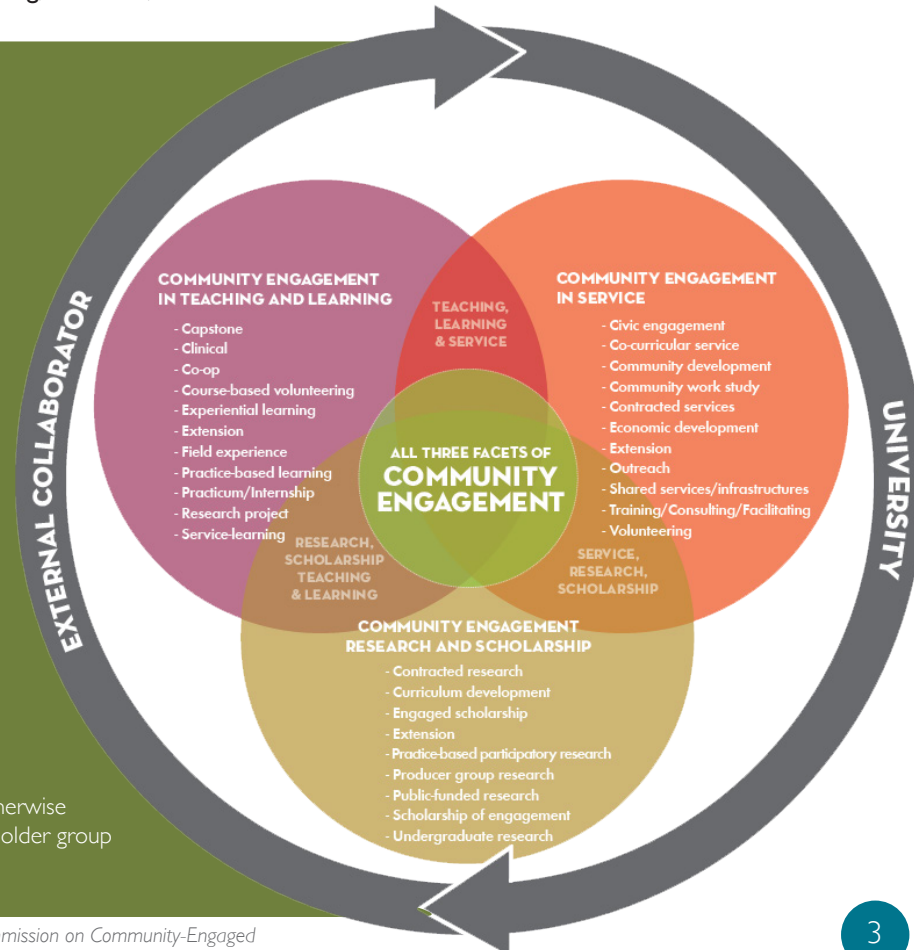
COMMUNITY

Communities consist of groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interests, or situational similarities at the local, regional/state, national, or global levels.

A few examples of communities affiliated by **Geographic Proximity** include: specific neighborhoods, municipalities, and other geographically-defined units.

Communities within **Special Interests** may include, but are not limited to, K-12 educational systems, commodity or 'operator' groups, hobbyist groups, food service sectors, or landowners.

Communities defined within **Situational Similarities** may include: emergency preparation, response, and/or recovery efforts; impoverished, disadvantaged, or otherwise marginalized populations; populations affected by disease or disorder; or any stakeholder group served by an agency.



Types of Community Engagement Partnerships at Mississippi State University

	OUTREACH	CONSULT	INVOLVE	SHARED LEADERSHIP	COMMUNITY-DRIVEN
Leadership and Involvement	MSU led; some community involvement	More community involvement	Good community involvement	Leadership is equally shared	Strong community leadership
Direction of Information and Decision Making	Information from MSU to community to inform or share	Information feedback from community to help inform MSU's efforts	Communication is bidirectional between MSU and community	Decision making is equally shared; communication is bidirectional	Final decision making is at the community level
Initiation and Exchange	MSU sends community information	MSU and community share information and feedback	More communication and participation between community and MSU on issues	MSU and community in strong partnership from conceptualization to output	Communities may consult with MSU to assist with technical questions
Cooperation	MSU and community coexist	MSU and community coexist	MSU and community cooperate	MSU and community mutually understand and collaborate	Community engages MSU as needed
Outcomes	Connections established for communication and outreach	Connections developed and information and feedback obtained from community	Visibility of partnership established; increased cooperation	Partnership and trust	Community leads; learning, research, and service reflect the needs and desires of the community

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Ex: Training sessions, awareness campaigns, social media

Communication: Mostly one-way

Sample Metrics: Number of participants; number of publication; number of products delivered

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Ex: Community advisory committees, Community conversations, Consulting and action plans.

Communication: Two-way

Sample Metrics: Active participation; retention; number of activities; increased accountability for decision-makers

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

Ex: Issue specific workgroups, Commodity groups, Community of practice

Communication: Two-way and equal partnership between MSU and community

Sample Metrics: Depth of engagement, willingness of members to take action; transcending organizational interests for long-term collective interests

MSU COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DEFINITIONS

Communities consist of groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interests, or situational similarities at the local, regional/state, national, or global levels.

Community Engagement describes collaboration between MSU and partnering communities for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity while fulfilling MSU's mission of scholarly teaching, research, and service.

Community-Engaged Service defines collaboration between members of MSU and a community or community-based group that results in beneficial services. Community service may, or may not, be related to an academic program and can be performed by students, faculty, and staff. Community service includes co-curricular service and civic engagement.

Community-Engaged Research refers to a research partnership between MSU and communities that is mutually beneficial and includes some degree of shared decision making and leadership between communities and MSU.

Community-Engaged Learning denotes academically-based community engaged courses that may integrate a range of teaching and learning strategies, including, but not limited to: service-learning, Co-op, externship, internship, practicum, clinical, capstone, research project, public service, practice-based learning, experiential education, and experiential learning.

Scholarship of Engagement or Engaged Scholarship is scholarship resulting from the collaborative and mutually beneficial partnership between university member(s) (i.e. faculty, staff, and/or student) and external non-higher education partner(s). Engaged scholarship is typically created and communicated through any of the following activities: discovery of new knowledge, development of new knowledge, dissemination of new knowledge, change in learning, change in behavior and/or change in conditions¹.

Community Partner includes any community-based individuals and organizations external to MSU.

Partnership - an association between communities and MSU to undertake a shared, mutually beneficial action or endeavor.

Extension provides MSU's research-based information, educational programs, and technology transfer focused on issues and needs of the people of Mississippi, enabling them to make informed decisions about their economic, social, and cultural well-being.

Civic Engagement is a type of community service that fosters citizenship through engagement in issues of public interest and/or participation in governance activities.

Co-curricular Service is a type of community service performed by students that is not formally linked to an academic curriculum, but fosters student learning.

Service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy that uses reflection to link community service with academic course objectives to enrich the educational experience of students, teach civic responsibility, and meet the needs of a community.

Scholarship "is creative intellectual work that is validated by peers and communicated" to the larger world. Scholarship includes, but is not limited to, obtaining grants, conducting research, writing scholarly publications, delivering presentations, creating curricula, creating art, and producing artistic performances.

Mutuality refers to an interdependence or shared interest, purpose, or benefit between two or more collaborators.

Reciprocity refers to a mutually beneficial exchange between MSU and its community partners.

¹ Franz, N. (2009). A holistic model of engaged scholarship: Telling the story across higher education's missions. *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*, 13(4), 31-49.

² Weiser, C. J. and Houglum, L. (1998). *Scholarship unbound for the 21st Century*. *Journal of Extension*, 36(4). Retrieved from <https://www.joe.org/joe/1998august/a1.php>

SUBMIT AN ACTIVITY, PROJECT, PROGRAM, OR SCHOLARSHIP OF ENGAGEMENT FOR CONSIDERATION

Submit a community engagement activity, project, program, or engaged scholarship (collectively referred to as “project”) that best exemplifies the “Institutional Commitment to Community Engagement Statement” on page 2 of this guide. Explain in detail, the community engagement project, the connection of the project to the larger institutional commitment to community engagement, and the impact of this project on society. The project selected for this section should be the one that most clearly aligns with the Institutional Commitment to Community Engagement Statement. You may submit multiple community engagement projects by using the same survey link multiple times. **For more information on how to apply, please contact the center for Community-Engaged Learning at 662.325.2370 or cce@msstate.edu**

Provide details pertaining to each of the three evaluation categories:

PROJECT ABSTRACT, ASSESSMENT OF OUTCOMES, IMPACTS, & PARTNERSHIPS, AND SIGNIFICANCE OF SCHOLARLY PRACTICES.

- **Project Abstract** assesses the breadth and depth of the project. Factors include: number of students serving, time dedicated to service, institutional staff support, participation and time committed, expertise utilized, collaboration with other organizations, leveraging of college or university, and community resources, and innovative use of creative solutions to address local problems.
- **Assessment of Outcomes, Impacts, & Partnerships** includes the estimated number of individuals served, and measurable effects of service in the community (e.g., number of houses cleaned, renovated, built, etc.).
See page 7 of this guide for details on community partner feedback.
- **Significance of Scholarly Practices** describes either short - or long - term benefits of the service to the community. The project will be assessed on the evidence provided to demonstrate measurable impacts on the community.

ELIGIBILITY:

Any MSU student, staff or faculty may apply on behalf of a project team.

REQUIRED COMMUNITY PARTNER FEEDBACK

The Community Engagement Award Application MUST include contact information for a community partner that can answer questions on project impact and collaboration. A survey link will be sent to the community partner by staff from the Center for Community-Engaged Learning asking the following items:

1. This project recognizes the role of the community partner. (1 Strongly Disagree / 5 Strongly Agree)
2. As a community partner, I am asked about my perception of the project's engagement with and impact on community. (1 Strongly Disagree / 5 Strongly Agree)
3. My community voice is heard and I have a seat on the table in important conversations that impact my community. (1 Strongly Disagree / 5 Strongly Agree)
4. The faculty and/or staff that our community partnership works with take specific actions to ensure mutuality (*refers to an interdependence or shared interest, purpose, or benefit between two or more collaborators*) and reciprocity (*a mutually beneficial exchange between MSU and its community partners*) in partnerships. (1 Strongly Disagree / 5 Strongly Agree)
5. The campus collects and shares feedback and assessment findings regarding partnerships, reciprocity, and mutual benefit, both from community partners to the institution and from the institution to the community. (1 Strongly Disagree / 5 Strongly Agree)
6. The partnership with this institution had a positive impact on my community. (1 Strongly Disagree / 5 Strongly Agree)
7. Describe the actions and strategies used by the leaders of this project to ensure mutuality (*refers to an interdependence or shared interest, purpose, or benefit between two or more collaborators*) and reciprocity (*a mutually beneficial exchange between MSU and its community partners*) in partnerships. (1 Strongly Disagree / 5 Strongly Agree)(250 words)
8. Please provide any additional information that you think will be important for understanding how the MSU project/activity partnering with you has enacted reciprocity, mutual respect, shared authority, and co-creation of goals and outcomes. (250 words)



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