

University-City Business Partnerships

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December 27, 2017 | 2017-R-0240

Issue

This report provides examples of universities that have established institutes, partnerships, or other entities to collaborate with government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and neighborhood groups to identify and address urban problems.

University-Community Partnerships

Relying mostly on [Community Wealth.org's Models and Best Practices: University and Community Partnerships](#), we identified 12 university-based centers, institutes, partnerships, or other entities that were established to address urban problems in collaboration with government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community groups to solve urban problems. As Attachment 1 shows, the entities vary based on the size of geographic areas they serve, the problems or needs they address, and the approaches they take.

Community-Wealth.org

Community-Wealth.org is an online project that gathers information about projects hospitals, universities, and other "anchor institutions" undertake to create jobs and business opportunities for economically distressed communities.

The approaches include forming partnerships with residents, community groups, and other stakeholders (i.e., community engagement); conducting research to address a problem; training stakeholders to conduct research (i.e., capacity building); or providing technical assistance to neighborhood businesses (i.e., community economic development). Most entities take two or more approaches. Attachment 2 groups the entities according to their dominant approach.

Attachment 1: Comparison of Selected University-Community Partnerships

University	Name and Date Started	Geographic Scope	Mission	Services
Clark University	Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise , 2008	Worcester, MA and statewide	Share knowledge that governments and other public service organizations can use to improve public policy effectiveness	Offers an interdisciplinary research model that includes partnership with practitioners, emphasizing outcomes such as improving educational performance and providing a safer, more sustainable environment
Colgate University	Partnership for Community Development , 1998	Hamilton, NY and surrounding areas	Enhance sustainable economic opportunity and community vitality	Provides services to help: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing businesses and farms thrive Attract and support new community-minded businesses and talent Develop an attractive, inviting, and commercially viable downtown
Duke University	Office of Durham and Regional Affairs, Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership , 1996	Durham communities	Work with residents of the 12 nearby neighborhoods to advance community priorities, focusing on affordable home ownership, education achievement, youth outreach, neighborhood safety, and quality health care	Engages university and neighborhood residents in a structured partnership with the surrounding community
University of Illinois at Chicago	Great Cities Institute , 1995	Primarily Chicago metropolitan region	Improve the quality of life of residents living and working in Chicago, its metropolitan region, and cities worldwide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes research on complex issues facing urban communities Provides service to the community by sponsoring community engagement and technical assistance Facilitates community and university dialogue through educational programs
University of Louisville	Housing and Neighborhood Development Strategies (HANDS) , 1992	Russell Neighborhood	Use university resources help solve problems of an impoverished African-American neighborhood	Provides case management, job training, leadership development, education, home ownership, and community design
Loyola University of Chicago	Center for Urban Research and Learning , 1996	Chicago metropolitan region	Create innovative solutions promoting equity and opportunity in metropolitan Chicago communities	Joins academics with community activists to work with local leaders and residents to produce action-oriented research that enable residents to address urgent community needs and achieve programmatic and policy results
Michigan State University	Center for Community and Economic Development , 1969	Communities statewide	Create, disseminate, and apply knowledge to improve the quality of life for people in distressed urban and regional Michigan communities	Engages in research initiatives and partnerships that result in collaborative learning and applied methods (i.e., applied research activities) <p>Applied research activities are those in which the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> accumulated knowledge informs the activity; knowledge is skillfully interpreted and applied; and activities are carried out with openness to new information, debate, and criticism

Attachment 1 (continued)

University	Name and Date Started	Geographic Scope	Mission	Services
University of California at Berkley	Institute of Urban and Regional Development , 1962	Regions and cities	Make cities and regions economically robust, socially inclusive, and environmentally resourceful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative, interdisciplinary research that analyzes and addresses urban problems • Build long-term community action-research partnerships • Establish a network of researchers, community partners, and policymakers to support urban equity
University of Minnesota	Urban Research and Outreach Engagement Center , 2009	North Minneapolis	Build thriving, innovative, and respectful collaborations; create new urban and community development models; and strengthen the university by serving the public good	<p>Researches issues and challenges facing North Minneapolis residents using university resources and community assets and knowledge</p> <p>Implements specific economic development, education and life-long learning, and health and wellness projects</p>
University of Pennsylvania	Center for Economic and Community Development , 1991	Pennsylvania regions and communities	Create new opportunities for people living throughout state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides technical assistance related to local tax policy • Helps regions keep and enhance businesses • Provides training and technical assistance to land use officials • Helps communities assess needs, identify assets, and prepare plans
	Office of Government and Community Affairs, The Barbara and Edward Netter Center for Community Partnerships , 1992	West Philadelphia	Solve complex, comprehensive, and interconnected problems of the American city	Using academically based community service that is linked to teaching and research and that has problem-oriented research and teaching, as well as student and faculty service learning
University of Southern California	The Center for Diversity and Democracy	Los Angeles and other global metropolitan areas	Help the world's diverse cities overcome ethnic and religious tensions and maintain democratic and just communities	Works with faculty members, students, and community partners to develop connections between the university and the community and promote faculty and student diversity
University of Wisconsin	Center for Urban Initiatives and Research , 1972	Greater Milwaukee and statewide	Provide research and technical assistance to public and nonprofit organizations by helping prepare strategic plans, conduct survey research, and analyze and map neighborhoods	Promotes strategic partnerships across disciplines and sectors by integrating a network of expertise to address community issues

*Source: [Community-Wealth.Org](#), *Models and Best Practices: University and Community Partnerships*

Attachment 2: Comparison of Selected University-Community Partnership Models

<i>Capacity Building</i>	<i>Collaborative Problem Solving</i>	<i>Community Economic Development</i>	<i>Neighborhood Development</i>	<i>Research Support</i>
<p>Center for Urban Initiatives and Research (University of Wisconsin): Provide research service to public and nonprofit organizations in preparing strategic plans, conducting research, and analyzing neighborhoods</p> <p>Great Cities Institute (University of Illinois at Chicago): Among other things, engage the community in solving problems and provide technical assistance</p> <p>Partnership for Community Development (Colgate University): Business and economic development services</p> <p>Center for Urban Research and Learning (Loyola University of Chicago): Integrate academics and community activists to help local leaders and residents produce action-oriented research to address urgent community needs</p> <p>Institute of Urban and Regional Development, (University of California at Berkeley): Create collaborative, interdisciplinary problem solving research, building long-term community action research partnerships, and establish networks of researchers, community partners, and policymakers</p>	<p>Office of Durham and Regional Affairs, Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership (Duke University): Engage university and neighborhood residents in structured partnerships to address specific neighborhood problems or needs</p> <p>Center for Community and Economic Development (Michigan State University): Engage in research initiatives and partnerships resulting in collaborative learning and applied methods</p> <p>Urban Research and Outreach Engagement Center (University of Minnesota): Use university resources to research issues and challenges facing North Minneapolis residents</p> <p>Office of Government and Community Affairs, The Barbara and Edward Netter Center for Community Partnerships (University of Pennsylvania): Use academically based community service that includes problem-solving research</p> <p>The Center for Diversity and Democracy (University of Southern California): Develop connections between the university and the community and promote faculty and student diversity</p>	<p>Center for Economic and Community Development (University of Pennsylvania): Provide economic development related technical assistance to businesses and local officials</p>	<p>Housing and Neighborhood Development Strategies (HANDS) (University of Louisville): Provide case management, job training, home ownership, and other targeted services</p>	<p>Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise (Clark University): Interdisciplinary research partnerships focused on outcomes such as improving educational performance and providing a safer, more sustainable environment</p>

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