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IRB-Approved Community-Engaged Research: Overview of a New Data System and Analysis of Retrospective Data

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IRB-Approved Community-Engaged Research: Overview of a New Data System and Analysis of Retrospective Data

Abstract
Presentation from the annual meeting of the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement from September 29 - October 1, 2014.

Keywords
community-engaged research, community research, community, research, IRB, data analysis

Disciplines
Higher Education

Comments

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IRB-Approved Community-Engaged Research: Overview of a New Data System and Analysis of Retrospective Data

Annual Meeting of International Association for Research on Service-learning and Community Engagement

September 29 – October 1, 2014
We are a premier urban, public research university focused on academic success.

Established in 1838
Located in Richmond, Virginia
More than 171,000 alumni worldwide
The VCU population

» 31,288 students
» 100 countries represented in student population
» 11,388 employees
» 2,170 full-time instructional faculty
VCU’s Mission

As the premier urban, public research university in Virginia, VCU’s mission is to advance knowledge and student success through its commitments to:

- an engaged, learner-centered environment that fosters inquiry, discovery and innovation in a global setting

- research that expands the boundaries of new knowledge and creative expression and promotes translational applications to improve human health

- interdisciplinary collaborations that bring new perspectives to complex problems and mobilize creative energies that advance innovation and solve global challenges

- health care that strives to preserve and restore health for all people, to seek the cause and cure of diseases through groundbreaking research, and to educate those who serve humanity

- diversity that provides a climate of inclusion, a dedication to addressing disparities wherever they exist, and an opportunity to explore and create in an environment of trust

- sustainable, university-community partnerships that enhance the educational, economic and cultural vitality of the communities VCU serves in Virginia and around the world
VCU’s Quest for Distinction

Theme IV: Become a national model for community engagement and regional impact

- Expand community engaged scholarship and service learning.
- Create university-community partnerships with a focus on the key targeted areas of:
  - K-12 Education
  - Access to Health
  - Economic Development
  - Sustainability
- Provide strategic leadership in addressing sustainability challenges through curricular and service innovations and green facilities and operations.
Examples of Institutionalization of CE

Community-engaged teaching, research and service has been added to the revised university promotion and tenure guidelines.

Key strategies in university level initiatives.

Community service leave (16 hours!)
Recognition for Community Engagement

Recognized as 1 of 40 top community-engaged institutions by the Carnegie foundation

President’s Higher Education Service Honor Roll, with highest distinction

Recipient of a NIH’s CTSA grant
Division of Community Engagement

www.community.vcu.edu

Vision

• VCU is a community of engaged citizens, working together changing lives.

Mission

• The VCU Division of Community Engagement mobilizes university-community partnerships that generate innovative solutions to societal challenges and prepares the engaged citizens of tomorrow.
Why enterprise data on community-engaged research (CEnR)?

1. We are a top research university with strong public mission.
2. Increasingly important to internal and external audiences to identify and track CEnR.
3. VCU’s senior leadership and Board of Visitors had established metrics to measure progress on our strategic plan and needed more robust indicators of CEnR.
4. VCU was preparing for application for renewal of the CTSA and re-classification as a community-engaged institution with Carnegie.
VCU Collaborators

Division of Community Engagement (Office of the Provost)

Center for Clinical and Translational Research (CTSA funded)

Office of Research
Strategies

1. Formulation and addition of questions to the IRB application to track future CEnR
2. Collection of CEnR information from faculty who had studies approved by the IRB during the prior two years.
Community-Engaged Research (CEnR)

VCU’s official definition states that CEnR is:

- “a **collaborative process** between the researcher and community partner that **creates and disseminates knowledge and creative expression** with the goal of **contributing to the discipline and strengthening the well-being of the community**.

- CEnR identifies the **assets of all stakeholders** and incorporates them in the design and conduct of the different phases of the research process.”

Question Development

- Identified mechanism and information needed
- Literature review
- Priority on limiting respondent burden and ensuring questions were appropriate for inclusion on the IRB application.
Community Partner Involvement

Is there at least one community partner* involved in the proposed study? Yes/No

*A community partner is an individual or organization that is not affiliated with VCU or VCU Health Systems (e.g. VA Health Systems, a non profit or NGO, a business) but who is engaged with VCU or VCU Health Systems in this proposed study.

If yes ...
Name and Location of Partner

Please provide the following details about each community partner. If there are more than 5 community partners, please provide the following information on the 5 most significant community partners. If a community partner is a collaboration of multiple partners, please indicate the name of the larger collaboration and the zip code or country of the location where the majority of the research is taking place.

- Name of the organization
- Zip code or Country of the organization
Role of Community Partner

Which of the three statements below best describes the role of the community partner in the study?

• Community partners only provide access to study subjects or project sites. They are not involved with study design, subject recruitment, data collection, or data analysis.

• Community partners do not make decisions about the study design or conduct, but provide guidance to the researcher about the study design, subject recruitment, data collection, or data analysis.

• Community partners make decisions with the researcher(s) about the study’s research activities and/or help conduct those activities (i.e. study design, subject recruitment, data collection, and/or data analysis).

Survey of PIs

• The online survey of PIs with IRB protocols approved between January 1, 2011 and January 26, 2013.
• During that period, 701 PIs received approval for 1,696 protocols.
• Of these, 453 (64.6%) responded to this survey; the respondents represented 755 (44.5%) of all approved protocols.
## Level of Community Partner Involvement

PIs provided information on 755 studies approved by the IRB in 2011-2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Involvement</th>
<th>% CEnR Protocols (n=263)</th>
<th>% Sampled Protocols (n=755)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access</strong></td>
<td>34.4</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community partners only provided access to study subjects or project sites. They were not involved with study design, subject recruitment, data collection, or data analysis.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guidance</strong></td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community partners did not make decisions about the study design or conduct, but provided guidance to the researcher about the study design, subject recruitment, data collection, or data analysis.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conduct</strong></td>
<td>42.3</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community partners made decisions with the researcher(s) about the study’s research activities and/or helped conduct those activities (i.e. study design, subject recruitment, data collection, and/or data analysis).</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional Key Findings

- Identified CEnR studies attracted $164,801,433 in funding; $64,101,608 of that was associated with the most intensive level of community partner involvement.
- Nearly three-quarters (70.8%) of the identified CEnR studies involved social and behavioral research.
- Approximately 10% (n=27) of the identified CEnR studies were clinical trials.
Next Steps

• **Evaluate** the effectiveness of this system to identify CEnR studies (Fall 2014).

• Identify **measures of progress** on the overall goal of advancing high quality, high impact CEnR.

• Determine how these data can most effectively be used in **strategic decision making** to encourage and resource high quality, high impact CEnR.

• Complete addition of question added to **Office of Sponsored Program forms**.
Larger Initiative

In development:
• Experiential learning
• Partnerships
• Community-specific, online repository
• Benchmarking anchor institution

See www.community.vcu.edu for more ...
Virginia Commonwealth University
Division of Community Engagement

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