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# Initiating and Sustaining Partnerships Handout

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**Description****Initiating & Sustaining Community-Academic Partnerships**

Erin Burke Brown, Ph.D., Director, ASPiRE

This workshop presents “5 Simple Steps” for initiating and sustaining community-academic partnerships. Participants will move through the 5 steps to consider the unique aspects of community-academic partnerships, the importance of deliberate and intentional conversations to find mutual benefit, and knowing when/if to terminate the partnership.

**Disciplines**

Civic and Community Engagement | Community-Based Learning | Community-Based Research | Higher Education | Service Learning

## RESOURCE HANDOUT

### Deepen the Relationship through Partnership Agreements

A “Partnership Agreement” can explicitly address:

Partnership infrastructure that ...

- Builds upon academic and community partner(s) strengths and establishes democratic leadership
- Considers resource capacity of all involved parties
- Explores roles and expectations of academic and community partner(s) throughout partnership development and, if possible, future research process
- A process for making decisions and working together towards a goal of mutual benefit for both the academic and community partner(s)

Partnership norms to include ...

- Mutual respect
- Open communication
- Recognition of the knowledge and expertise of all participants in the process
- How will you address conflict?
- Future data ownership (if applicable)

### Tips for Communicating Effectively with Your Partner

- Eliminate jargon
- Have an initial meeting on-site with the partner
- Make sure you have a specific point person as your main contact
- Communicate using the most effective method for your partner
- Provide written information about your project

### Tips for Positive Relationship Building

- Make sure the relationship has mutual benefit
- Be accountable
- Have clear expectations
- Guide partner on working with students
- Respect the work of your partner
- Be flexible

Fun site: See the Action Catalogue (<http://actioncatalogue.eu>) for models for exploring shared interests!