Initiating and Sustaining Partnerships - Resource Handout

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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!
**Self-Preparation Checklist**

**In thinking about Community-Academic Partnerships,** ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes/This is <strong>easy</strong> for me to do</th>
<th>No/This is <strong>hard</strong> for me to do</th>
<th>I have no idea, I should think about this more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do I possess the patience needed to work with a diverse team?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do I possess the patience needed to learn things I may not know?</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do I possess the patience needed to teach others about my skills and experience?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do I have a genuine curiosity about how others live and/or what their jobs entail?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do I possess or am willing to learn the interpersonal skills needed to build long-term partnerships?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am I willing and able to respect and inspire others?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do I have the ability to lead?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do I have the ability to share control?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do I have the ability to be led?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do I want to make others’ concerns the focus of my work?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As an academic, am I able to supplement my scientific skills with humility?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As a community partner, am I able to support academic needs?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am I committed to self-evaluation, equal power distribution, and the development of mutually beneficial partnerships?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>