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Learning Through Serving: Why University-Community Collaboration is an Educational Imperative

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Abstract
The objectives of this presentation were to: (1) understand how universities impact communities; (2) discuss importance of university-community collaboration; (3) review best practices for university-community collaboration; (4) explore ways to positively impact communities through university-community collaboration; and (5) learn ways to combine academic and professional goals through civic engagement.

Keywords
service-learning, higher education, collaboration, university, community, partnerships, university-community

Disciplines
Higher Education

Comments
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William and Mary Active Citizens Conference
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Objectives

- Understand how universities impact communities
- Discuss importance of university-community collaboration
- Review best practices for university-community collaboration
- Explore ways to positively impact communities through university-community collaboration
- Learn ways to combine academic and professional goals through civic engagement
How do universities impact communities?

In small groups of 4-5, make a list of the various ways that universities impact communities using the provided handout. Be prepared to share your responses.
Why is university-community collaboration important?

1. Share reasons why university-community collaboration is important.
2. Thinking about your reasons, work in small groups to develop an elevator speech explaining why this type of collaboration is important.
Getting the Picture—Thinking about Best Practices for Collaboration

Working in small groups, draw a picture of what an ideal collaboration between a university and community looks like.
In small groups share one effective collaboration with the community at your university? What has made the collaboration successful?
Use the handout to think about how you fit into activities currently happening on your campus that engage the community. Think of at least one action step you can take to be more engaged.