Kennesaw State University

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ENGAGE KSU

PROJECT PERSONNEL
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ENGAGE KSU MODEL

COMMUNITY
local • regional • national • global

PARTNERSHIPS & NETWORKS

TEACHING

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SCHOLARSHIP

SERVICE

STRUCTURES & RESOURCES

UNIVERSITY

faculty • staff • administrators • students • alumni
SUMMARY OF TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS (P&N)

1. KSU should adopt a university-wide definition of Community Engagement (CE) that will drive its community engagement efforts.

   - Create working definitions of CE per team.
   - Integrate teams’ CE definitions into one.
   - Present definition to administration and integrate feedback.

2. Create a reliable, simple process for gathering information from all KSU constituents on their CE activities and build a consolidated inventory that captures all this information.

   - Codify system requirements based on P&N focus group findings.
   - Conduct a gap analysis of data already being captured by Digital Measures and other existing databases on campus.
   - Hire/allocate dedicated resources for enterprise system design and development.
   - Transition system requirements to system designers.

3. Ensure CE inventory system answers questions to which community partners and internal community members might require answers.

   - Leverage existing networks of P&N team members to conduct focus groups with local community partners.
   - Leverage university networks to conduct focus groups with a broader sample of community partners (i.e., international partners).
   - Reconcile focus group results with team members’ recommendations and incorporate into CE inventory system design.
   - Actively involve internal and external partners in system design sessions.

4. Analyze the partnerships and networks data captured within the CE inventory system and set goals/targets consistent with our definition of CE with a focus on quality, impact, and growth to measure the overall effectiveness of our partnerships and networks activities.

   - Analyze if any key partnerships are missing.
   - Conduct a gap analysis of perceptions of community partners with the reality of the University’s capabilities and efforts.

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1 Key Recommendations for each team are enumerated followed by accompanying Strategies (bulleted below each recommendation)
SCHOLARSHIP TEAM (CERCA)²

1. Increase the number, quality, and impact of external partnerships based on research and creative activity.
   - Lower barriers to pursuing research and creative activity in general, and CES/CERCA in particular.
   - Establish a campus unit whose principal mission is to actively cultivate CERCA-driven University-Community partnerships.

2. Build faculty and unit capacity to pursue high-quality CES/CERCA.
   - Educate the campus community about the scope and value of CES/CERCA.
   - Establish and disseminate clear methods of evaluating and rewarding CES/CERCA.
   - Provide professional development opportunities for faculty interested in pursuing CES/CERCA.
   - Foster a network of faculty pursuing (or intending to pursue) CERCA within colleges and across campus.

3. Maximize quality, impact, and sustainability of CES/CERCA at KSU.
   - Recognize and promote existing community partnerships in CERCA.
   - Expand participation in national and international networks and organizations leading and supporting CES/CERCA.
   - Expand the numbers of faculty actively involved in CES/CERCA.

SERVICE TEAM

1. Offer concurrent on-line training to faculty, staff, and alumni that is self-directed to facilitate a learning environment that promotes KSU’s commitment to engaged service.
   - A duly constituted Central Office for Community Engagement will be responsible for the development and implementation of on-line training to support the engaged mission of KSU for faculty and staff, students and alumni.

2. Conduct sessions at student orientation on KSU’s community engagement mission.
   - A duly constituted Central Office for Community Engagement will be responsible for presenting sessions that support the engaged mission and CE activities at KSU.

3. Conduct an annual Student Engagement Conference with tracks for 1101 freshmen, sophomores, junior, seniors, and graduate students.
   - A duly constituted Central Office for Community Engagement will be responsible for organizing conferences that support the engaged mission of KSU.

4. Showcase all KSU-related engaged programs, projects, and events.

²² Key Recommendations for each team are enumerated followed by accompanying Strategies (bulleted below each recommendation)
• A duly constituted Central Office for Community Engagement will be responsible for showcasing all projects, events and programs that support the engaged mission of KSU.

5. A policy approving release time for staff participating in approved CE activities needs to be instituted.
  • This policy will be formulated by the duly constituted Central Office for Community Engagement.
  • This policy will obtain the support and approval of Central Administration, the Staff Senate and the Administrative Senate (through the university’s governance process).

STRUCTURES AND RESOURCES TEAM (S&R)³

1. Create a leadership structure that expands KSU’s focus on research, scholarship and other activities related to community engagement while facilitating increased communication/connection between current areas that house and sponsor these types of activities.
  • Create a central coordinating entity within the Provost office to support collaboration with current programs while providing resources to support expanded community engagement activities.
  • Formulate a 3-5 year plan for fully developing KSU as an Engaged University.
  • Develop an appropriate governance structure that ensures communication and collaboration across all CE participants in the various areas.
  • Identify 3-4 specific benchmark institutions (related to community engagement) and conduct site visits, Skype conversations and other information gathering modes to more fully understand their structures.

2. Allocate increased resources and develop strong incentive programs that encourage, support and recognize faculty, staff, students, and other constituent groups who participate in comprehensive CE scholarship, teaching and other CE activities.
  • Develop a budget line for CE to accompany the recommended governance structures.
  • Develop a budget line that specifically supports faculty and student research projects related to CE.
  • Develop a budget line that specifically supports the continued development of curricular and co-curricular CE activities and courses.

3. Develop the current KSU website to ensure easy navigation to the various community engagement activities at KSU, and expand current technologies to emphasize and “tell the story” of all KSU CE projects.
  • Create a communications and marketing team (outside the current University Relation’s structure) specifically for the promotion of CE activities.

³³ Key Recommendations for each team are enumerated followed by accompanying Strategies (bulleted below each recommendation)
• Develop a comprehensive web site for CE activities that serves to promote and expand CE participation.
• Develop a comprehensive social media strategy aimed at promoting the CE activities at KSU.

4. Conduct a comprehensive review of current policies and take steps to minimize/eliminate current policies that restrict or hinder CE.
   • Create a small group of appropriate KSU personnel to evaluate current policies and procedures that hinder CE activities.
   • Create a comprehensive list of logistical challenges currently experienced by individuals or units attempting to develop CE projects or activities.
   • Develop a comprehensive list of recommendations for altering current university policies and procedures that hinder expanded CE activities.
   • Develop new policies and/or procedures that will ease the process for faculty, staff, students, retirees, and other community constituents who participate in and/or develop CE activities.

TEACHING TEAM

1. Identify the CE courses that are currently available and what additional courses constituents would like to see with regard to CE, both in the curriculum and in the co-curriculum.
   • Form and charge a centralized entity for coordinating CE efforts between and among departments, offices, programs, and personnel.
   • Equip the entity with a dedicated budget with particular emphasis on the provision of staff and resources.
   • Develop a process by which curriculum and co-curriculum may be identified as ‘community engaged’, including provisions within the course registration system for designating specific courses as ‘community engaged’.

2. Recognize and reward current teaching and learning endeavors focused on community engagement in the curriculum and co-curriculum.
   • Allocate financial and human resources to provide incentives and awards for students who participate in CE courses.
   • Allocate the financial resources and the manpower necessary for providing awards to faculty and staff for ‘engaged teaching’.

3. Advance current/create new teaching and learning endeavors focused on community engagement in the curriculum and co-curriculum.
   • Allocate the financial and human resources necessary for providing incentives to faculty and staff for ‘engaged teaching’.

4 4 Key Recommendations for each team are enumerated followed by accompanying Strategies (bulleted below each recommendation)