Excellence in Community Engagement Visioning & Planning Advisory Committee (E-CEVPAC)

May 9, 2011, 9-11am
Meeting held at NCCJ

ATTENDEES (22):

Cherry Callahan	Laurie Kennedy-Malone	Jim Settle
Patti Clayton	Ed Kitchen	Terri Shelton
Kathleen Edwards	Patrick Lee Lucas	Stephen Sills
Brenda Elliott	Jerry McGuire	Jim Summey
Colleen Fairbanks	Yamile Nazar	Dianne Welsh
Susan Feit	Chris Payne	Bob Wineburg
Emily Janke	Diane Picciuto	
Spoma Jovanovic	Cathryne Schmitz	

ABSENTEES (9):

Chelsea Boccardo	Bonnie Landaverdy	Nell Pynes
Kristin Buchner	Julia Jackson-Newsom	Hollie Rose-Galli
Cathy Hamilton	Donna Newton	Sheron Sumner

Welcome and Overview

Introduction to the host site
- Susan Feit [Executive Director of NCCJ), provided an overview of the mission, programs, and activities of NCCJ. More information to be found at: http://www.nccjtriad.org/

Discussion of July E-CEVPAC retreat
- To be held July 20th, 2011 from 9am-3pm at the Welfare Reform Liaison Project (950 Revolution Mill Drive, Greensboro, NC, 27403)

Summary of previous Spring 2011 meetings
The following topics have been addressed to feed into development of communication systems, such as a website and database, as well as the concept paper on infrastructure to support community engagement in a sustainable and significant way.
- What is community engagement?
- Why should/do UNCG and the community partner? How do they communicate?
- Challenges and successes of (a) communication for engagement and (b) partnership development

Focus of this (May 9th) meeting
- Identify (current and to be developed) essential resources to support reciprocal partnerships for community engagement

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Small Group Discussion – What does excellent support and assistance look like with regards to identifying and maintaining partnerships for community engagement?

Members were asked to gather in groups of 3-4 people (including at least one community representative in each group). Members were asked to think of a partnership of which they had been a part or had observed closely and to describe that partnership using the questions below. These stories provided concrete examples of the types and challenges of partnerships that may need to be addressed if we are to provide excellent support and assistance for community engagement. After 30 minutes of small group discussion, teams reported their responses, which were then written on a flip chart and further addressed as time allowed.

Key themes synthesized below:

Question 1: What was the primary purpose(s) of the partnership?
- ❖ Achieve balance between university and community resources/needs.
- ❖ Guide future efforts of the human relations commission
- ❖ Economic development (e.g., corporate information/connections)
- ❖ Provide resources/support to connect students, faculty, and the community
- ❖ Develop underlying capacities for change
- ❖ Social activism
- ❖ Identify, activate, and sustain specific partnerships where interests line up well

Question 2: What were the primary activities of the partnership?
- ❖ Discrete projects (e.g., evaluation, health fair, internship, class project, needs assessments, marches, rallies)
- ❖ Ongoing committee meetings/annual events (e.g., annual forum/summit)
- ❖ Collect and analyze data on social problems in the community and propose solutions
- ❖ Propose recommendations for policy changes or resource reallocation
- ❖ Identifying and aligning needs and resources to activate and sustain partnerships
- ❖ Develop methods of communication and tracking (databases)
- ❖ Professional and workforce development

Question 3: What challenges made it difficult to sustain the partnership?
- ❖ Aligning the university and community timelines/calendars
- ❖ How can the work best satisfy different agendas simultaneously (e.g., research and community agenda)
- ❖ Cost-benefit analyses (e.g., student work, community return on investment, aligning expectations and needs; why is partnership between university and community beneficial?)
- ❖ Relationship building and finding the "right people" to partner (faculty can serve as "connective tissue" between university and community; UNCG members can serve on community/government boards to help initiate new relationships)
- ❖ Carrying out intended goals to completion
- ❖ Investment of time devoted to administrative tasks (e.g., IRB, grants, etc.)

- ❖ Current state of institutional culture (promotion and tenure guidelines, bureaucracy of UNCG)
- ❖ Lack of inter-unit and interdisciplinary collaboration
- ❖ Providing adequate attention to all stages of partnerships (e.g., new, short-term, long-term, or dormant)
- ❖ Existing preconceptions of the university or the community that may limit ideas (e.g., cynicism, elitism, etc.)

Question 4: To whom or where did you turn to for assistance, if anyone or anyplace?
- ❖ To existing known resources/relationships (e.g., personal contacts, discrete "independent" centers like the Center for Youth Family, and Community Partnerships and the Center for New North Carolinians)
- ❖ Offices on campus devoted to providing assistance in some capacity (e.g., Office of Leadership & Service-Learning, Office of Undergraduate Research, Public Scholarship Graduate Network)
- ❖ Organizations within the community devoted to providing assistance in some capacity (e.g., The Guilford Nonprofit Consortium, the Volunteer Center, Community Foundations, the Greensboro Human Relations Commission, the Guilford Education Alliance)
- ❖ Other higher education institutions (e.g., Elon/NCCC, NC A&T)

Question 5: If you could have designed your perfect helper, what would that person(s) have provided to help sustain the partnership?
- ❖ Has experience with partnerships and can help develop a long-term plan/process (helps broaden partnership/project beyond the individual level)
- ❖ Helps convene partners to illuminate issues
- ❖ Staff assistance (e.g., administrative tasks – setting up meetings, preparing materials, etc.)
- ❖ Leadership that supports the partnerships and is invested in their success
- ❖ People designated to help overcome obstacles (e.g., IRB, grant applications)
- ❖ Mentoring process to help advise on how to carry out, document, and evaluate this work
- ❖ Designated people to work toward policy change

Question 6: What other resources would have helped you in sustaining the partnership?
No time to report this out. If you have thoughts on this question that you would like to share, please send them to emjanke@uncg.edu.

For the July 20ᵗʰ retreat:
We will address the question of how best to support excellence in community engagement through supportive and integrated infrastructure. We ask that you help us to identify the pros and cons, hidden issues, or potential connections and resources related to various models and options. Each person who serves on the E-CEVPAC is essential to this meeting because of her/his unique and invaluable perspective. We kindly request your presence for the full time of the retreat 9-3pm. We will feed you well – and the Think Tank room at Welfare Reform Liaison Project is beautiful!