What if UNCG were beamed into outer space? What would the public say was lost?

This thought experiment is useful for us as we consider this year's annual collection of community engagement and public service activities at UNCG. The provost has asked the Institute for Community and Economic Engagement to help in this, to help us tell our story, and to be stewards of this data for future uses as well.

So we want to show the full portrait of our engagement, and by telling our story we're also moving forward some important requests that we've had from faculty and administrators, and staff, as well as community partners over the years to be able to tell them more about what we're doing, with whom, where, and to what ends.

Collecting this kind of information can help us not only tell our story externally to others better, but we can also work to create better collaborations, work with university relations to tell our story better, with advancement and development as we start to begin our next capital campaign. What are the things that are important to us that we want to be supporting?

It helps us to field referrals, and requests from the community, and it will also help in our next strategic plan for the university. One of the challenges of collecting data in areas where we haven't usually collected data before is that there's a wide gap between what's feasible, and what's meaningful data to collect. And so the Institute is working closely with your administrators, with your department chairs, to be able to collect information across faculty and staff activities in both community engagement and public service. And we're working with you to develop a strategy that's going to work this year as well, so that in the future we can continue to steward the data and to use it for all of our purposes.

Thank you so much for your help in this year's data collection.