



Collaboratory Report

2023-
2024

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Welcome to Collaboratory

Community engagement is often described as “part of the DNA” of UNCG—embedded in all parts of our work, and central to our institutional mission, vision, and values. In the Institute for Community and Economic Engagement, we work to ensure the simile illustrating how vital community engagement is to our institutional success does not extend to *visibility*. Much as technological advances have rendered DNA visible, our use of tools like Collaboratory ensure the labor required to sustain our commitment to community-engaged work is always ready to be seen and celebrated.

In the pages that follow, the 2023–2024 Collaboratory Report, captures a glimpse of the labor undertaken by UNCG’s community-engaged scholars, and illustrates the work they are doing with community partners towards positive outcomes for our community, state, country, and world. I emphasize that this report is a glimpse because there are always more partnerships and stories to capture. This is an amazing problem to have, and we are committed to helping each of you tell your stories of community engagement. I hope this report inspires you to share your stories with us and dream of all the ways community engagement can live in your work in the world.



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OUR MISSION

ICEE's mission in Collaboratory is to communicate our institutional story and connect faculty, staff, and community partners around shared community-identified priorities and passions for shared learning and mutual benefit.

This publicly searchable, online database is home to the community-engaged and public service work that keeps UNCG rooted in our community and connects us to resources that enable us to continue to show up for our neighbors.

Carnegie Classification

Community engagement describes collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.

The purpose of community engagement is the partnership of college and university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching, and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.

Collaboratory

Collaboratory supports higher education institutions committed to furthering their understanding of the practice and scholarship of community engagement. In Collaboratory, the specific details of community-university activities are connected to a network of affiliated community partners, units on campus, courses, and institutional programs and initiatives.

The resulting data enables practitioners and scholars to increase buy-in and understanding for community engagement and public service, advocate for its recognition in promotion and tenure policies, and demonstrate the value and impacts of their partnerships.

UNCG's Collaboratory collects information on curricular-based community engagement activities and related partners/sites, as well as data on any public (engaged) scholarship, community-based research, outreach programs, community service and co-curricular activities that utilize community engagement principles, practices, and/or pedagogies.

What is Community-Engaged Scholarship?

The term community-engaged scholarship (sometimes also referred to as the scholarship of engagement) refers to research/creative activities, teaching, and service undertaken by faculty members in collaboration with community members (and often students) and that embody the characteristics of both community engagement (i.e., reciprocal partnerships, public purposes) and scholarship (i.e., demonstrates current knowledge of the field/discipline, invites peer collaboration and review, is open to critique, is presented in a form that others can build on, involves inquiry).

It is important to note that scholarship and research are not synonymous, as stated in the UNCG University-wide Promotion and Tenure Guidelines, and, therefore, should not be conflated. It is also important to note that not all community-engaged activities undertaken by faculty comprise scholarship.



OUTPUT Activities & Artifacts

Community engagement is described by what is produced, delivered, or supplied, such as activities (e.g., service-learning class, internship, presentation, outreach event) and artifacts developed (e.g., policy recommendations, book/monograph, program, article, curriculum, dataset).



OUTCOME Purpose & Values

Community engagement is described by the purpose, the expected or achieved contributions to populations or stakeholders, or the values and principled intentions that drive efforts to engage.



PROCESS Relationship & Epistemic Inclusion

Community engagement is described by the relationship, the ways in which partners work together (e.g., collaboration, reciprocity, mutual benefit), or epistemology, including the primacy of community members in the co-construction of and sharing of knowledge.

While all public impact scholarship may describe diverse scholarly outputs and public purposes, community engagement is differentiated by its process - specifically reciprocal partnerships and epistemic inclusion.

Community Engagement Themes

UNCG developed the Collaboratory©, and now nearly 40 institutions use it to manage their community-engaged scholarship and pedagogy.

Faculty and staff partners whose data are reflected do more than simply contribute to accurate reporting, they increase visibility of their work among campus and community partners.



In these four pages, we have developed a pair of tools to visualize reported partnerships and initiatives across UNCG's community-engaged ecosystem. This page provides a graphical representation of the chart on the next page.

Community Engagement Themes - by the numbers

These images show a snapshot of all activities entered into Collaboratory©. Some activities fall into multiple categories. Because data are individually submitted by UNCG faculty and staff, they may not reflect all community engagement activities offered at any given time.

UNCG School or Unit	Arts & Culture	Community & Economic Development	Education	Environment & Sustainability	Government & Public Safety	Health & Wellness	Social Issues	Total Activities	Total Partners
All Non-Academic Units	7	12	28	11	10	20	32	54	180
All Academic Units	65	53	139	31	33	87	120	245	863
Bryan School of Business & Economics	1	9	3	1	1	0	1	16	53
College of Arts & Sciences	12	7	28	9	10	23	31	50	82
College of Visual & Performing Arts	19	7	17	3	3	3	9	21	28
Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering	1	2	15	1	1	1	0	17	14
Loyd International Honors College	3	0	2	0	2	0	3	5	12
School of Education	0	2	16	1	1	4	8	21	40
School of Health & Human Sciences	7	10	15	5	4	28	26	39	129
School of Nursing	0	0	2	0	0	5	2	6	7
University Libraries	6	4	10	0	2	1	5	17	312

Points of Distinction



The College of Arts and Sciences and School of Health and Human Sciences lead community-engaged work at UNCG, with 50 and 39 activities, each.

Education and Social Issues are the disciplinary categories chosen most often by faculty and staff who report their work in the database.

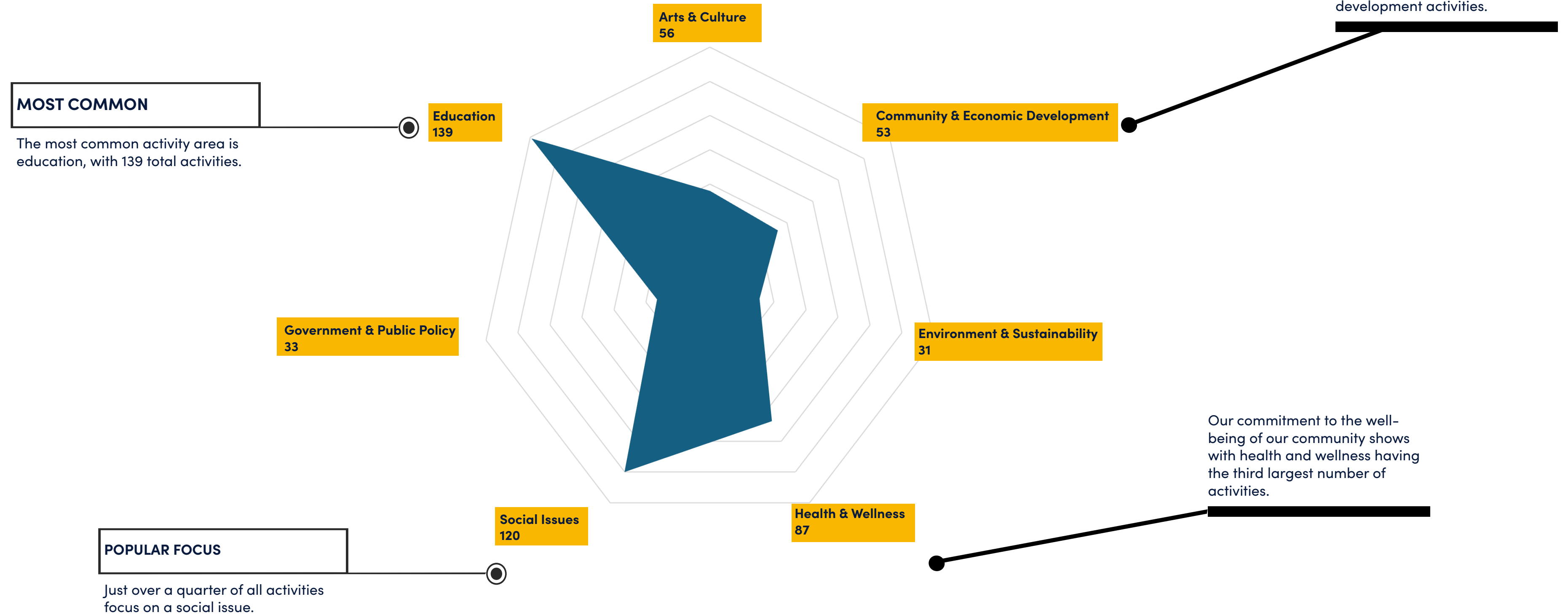
Activities connected to the Bryan School of Business show the embeddedness of economic development within community-engaged work at UNCG.

Non-academic units listed here, but not reported individually, include: The Office of Research and Engagement, Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, Office of the Provost, Facilities Operations, and University Advancement.



What kinds of activities are happening at UNCG?

This radar chart shows the theme of community-partnered activities at UNCG. Some activities may fall into multiple categories. We can use this chart to visualize which themes are frequently, or infrequently, addressed in our community-engaged work.



Who are OUR PARTNERS?

Our partners represent 37 North Carolina communities, 19 US States, and three countries.



Our top ten most active community partners are...

Community Partner	Number of Activities
City of Greensboro	6
Cone Health	8
Greensboro Housing Coalition	5
Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department	6
Greensboro Public Libraries	5
Guilford County Schools	37
Horsepower Therapeutic Learning Center	6
New Arrivals Institute	5
Rockingham County Schools	6
The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Clubs of Greensboro	5

Bryan School of Business and Economics

The Bryan School of Business & Economics has 11 activities with 53 partners. Two notable collaborators are HAAND Ceramics and the Small Business Technology Development Center of Greensboro.

11
Activities

53
Partners



As activities can (and often will) support multiple focus areas, the activity count, in the yellow box, will not match the count in the radar chart.

College of Arts & Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences has 50 activities with 82 partners.
Two notable collaborators are Guilford County Schools and City of Greensboro.



50

Activities

82

Partners

As activities can (and often will) support multiple focus areas, the activity count, in the yellow box, will not match the count in the radar chart.

College of Visual & Performing Arts

The College of Visual and Performing Arts has 21 activities with 28 partners.
Two notable collaborators are Doris Henderson Newcomers' School and Guilford County Schools.

50
Activities

82
Partners



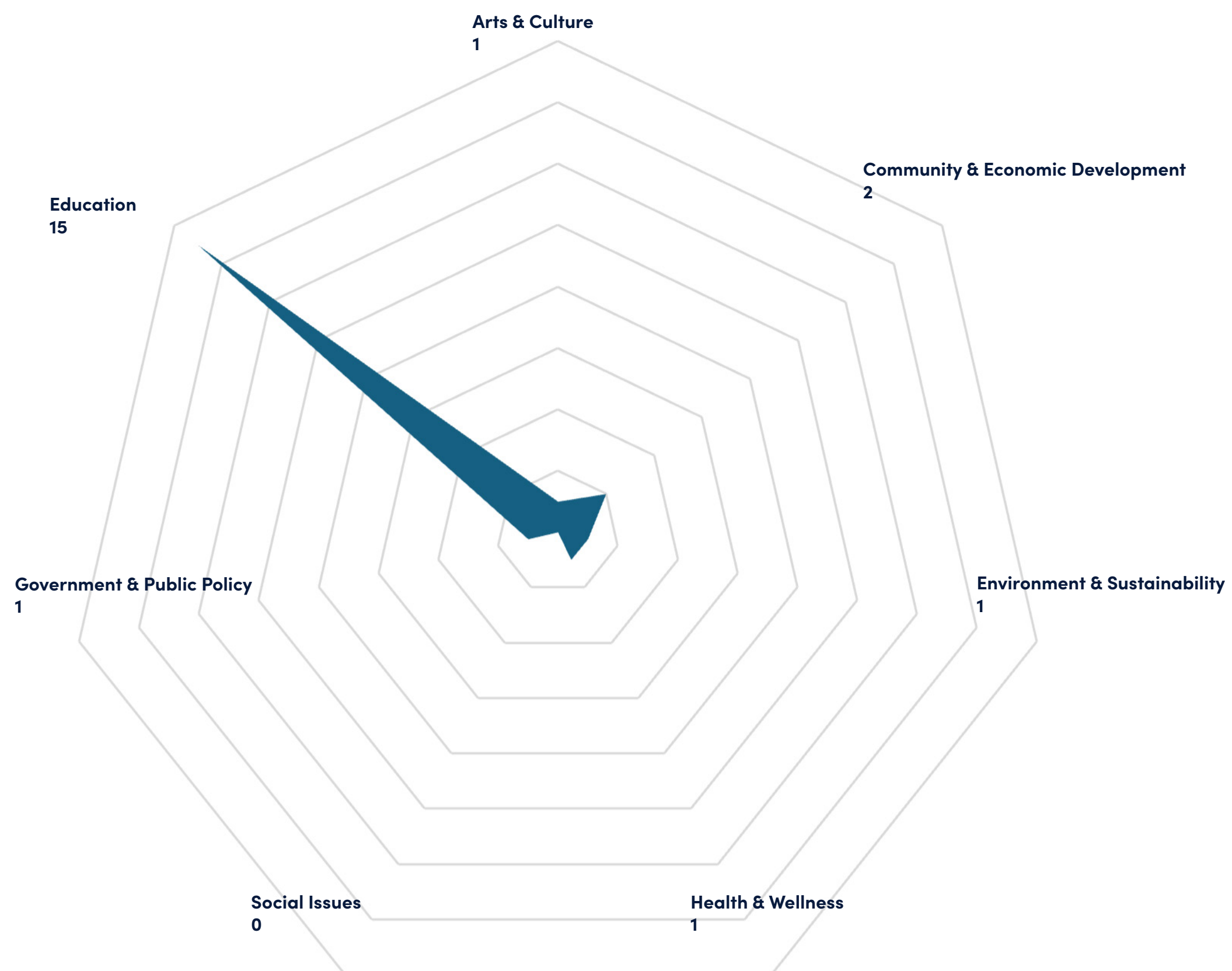
As activities can (and often will) support multiple focus areas, the activity count, in the yellow box, will not match the count in the radar chart.

Joint School of Nanoscience & Nanoengineering

The Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering has 17 activities with 14 partners. Two notable collaborators are Gateway Research Park and Guilford County Schools

17
Activities

14
Partners



As activities can (and often will) support multiple focus areas, the activity count, in the yellow box, will not match the count in the radar chart.

Lloyd International Honors College

The Lloyd International Honors College has 5 activities with 12 partners. Two notable collaborators are the City of Greensboro and the Young Democrats of North Carolina.

5
Activities

12
Partners



As activities can (and often will) support multiple focus areas, the activity count, in the yellow box, will not match the count in the radar chart.

School of Education

The School of Education has 21 activities with 40 partners. Two notable collaborators are Greensboro Public Library and Glen Haven Community Center.

21
Activities

40
Partners

As activities can (and often will) support multiple focus areas, the activity count, in the yellow box, will not match the count in the radar chart.

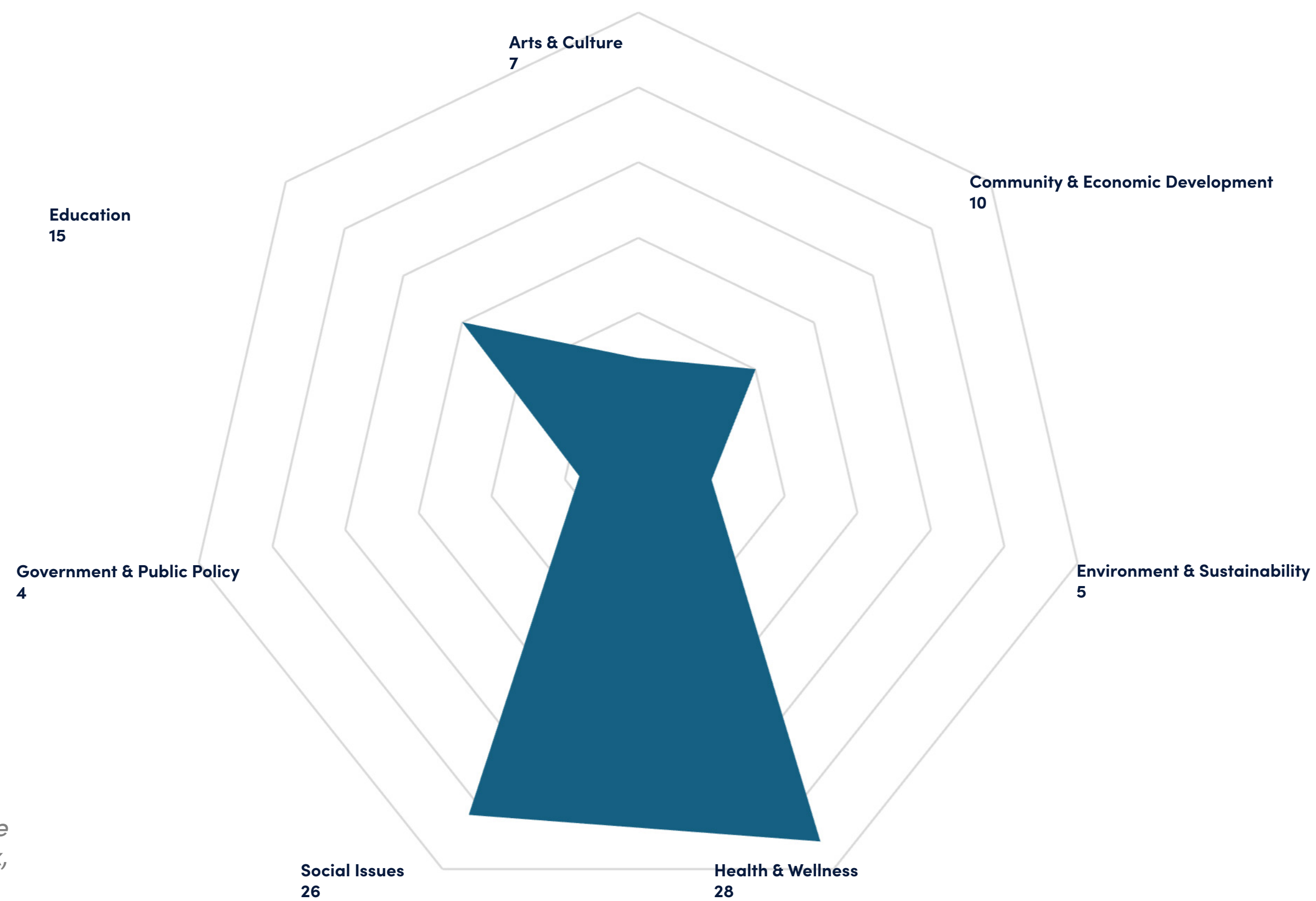


School of Health and Human Sciences

The School of Health and Human Services has 39 activities with 129 partners. Two notable collaborators are Greensboro Parks and Recreation and High Point Parks and Recreation.

39
Activities

129
Partners



As activities can (and often will) support multiple focus areas, the activity count, in the yellow box, will not match the count in the radar chart.

School of Nursing

The School of Nursing has 6 activities with 7 partners.
Two notable collaborators are the Congregational Nurse Program and Cone Health..

6
Activities

7
Partners

As activities can (and often will) support multiple focus areas, the activity count, in the yellow box, will not match the count in the radar chart.



University Libraries

The School of Education has 12 activities with 312 partners.
Two notable collaborators are Guilford County Schools and Guilford County NC.

12
Activities

312
Partners

As activities can (and often will) support multiple focus areas, the activity count, in the yellow box, will not match the count in the radar chart.



All Non-Teaching Units

Non-teaching units (Enrollment Management, Facilities Operations, the Office of Research and Engagement, the Office of the Provost, Student Affairs, and University Advancement) have 58 activities with 186 partners.

Two notable collaborators are the Montagnard American Association and the Latino Coalition of Guiford County.



56
Activities

186
Partners

All Teaching Units

When considered together, instructional units, whose work is reflected individually by school or college in the preceding pages, have documented nearly 400 activities with 600 partners.



Fellowships, Awards, and Recognitions

Faculty awardees for community-engaged scholarship and pedagogy span the University and contribute richly to its mission.

2024

UNCG's Community Engagement Reaffirmation
from the *Carnegie Foundation*

UNCG's reclassification by the Carnegie Foundation for community engagement in 2015 and now in 2024, underscores its unwavering dedication to community involvement since initially achieving the distinction in 2008. This ongoing commitment has consistently earned UNCG recognition in both curricular engagement and outreach and partnerships.

2021

Public Scholarship Award
from the *International Association for Research on Service-Learning & Community Engagement*

Awarded to Dr. **Marianne LeGreco**, associate professor in Communication Studies, for exemplary interdisciplinary research that has an impact on pressing public issues and generates non-traditional scholarly products.

2020

Civically Engaged Faculty Award
from *Campus Compact*

Awarded to Dr. **Diya Abdo**, Director of the Center for New North Carolinians, for exemplary engaged scholarship for the public good, including advancing students' civic learning, conducting community-based research, fostering reciprocal community partnerships, and building institutional commitments to service-learning and civic engagement.

2019

Community Impact and Outcomes Award
from the *International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement*

Awarded to Dr. **Sharon Morrison**, Professor, Public Health Education, Dr. **Sudha Shreeniwas**, Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, Founding Member Dr. **Andrew Young**, and the Montagnard Dega Association/Montagnard American Organization as a group. The award recognizes excellence in service-learning and research carried out in partnership with communities to address and advance the priorities of community stakeholders.

2019

Center for Communication, Community Collaboration & Change
from the *National Communication Association Center*

The **Communication Studies department** was selected as the inaugural host of the National Communication Association Center for Communication, Community Collaboration and Change (NCA-CCCC Center) to engage students in community research and engagement.

2018

Publicly Active Graduate Education Fellowship
from *Imagining America*

Awarded to graduate student **Santos Flores**, to support work in collaborative art-making, teaching, writing, storytelling, and co-creating knowledge within and for community.

ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

The work of engaged scholarship occurs in homes and schools, offices, fields, and community centers - anywhere, really, that we and our neighbors live, work, play, and worship. The Institute cultivates those relationships through local, regional, and national engagement opportunities.

The Community Engagement Council

In 2021, the Provost appointed the UNCG Community Engagement Council, tri-led by ICEE, OLCE, and OSS to improve coordination and communication as the University further develops its community-facing research, service, and teaching efforts. The Council streamlines communication among internal and external stakeholders and supports clearer pathways for students, faculty, and staff interested in community-engaged work to find resources for and access to engagement opportunities. Council members represent offices, units, and initiatives that advance community engagement as an aspect of UNCG's mission and distinction. Council members contribute to working groups related to annual areas of focus, such as an institutional self-study; strategic and coordinated communication; tracking and data use; integrating curricular engagement across programs; and full participation/equity.

In Spring 2024, the CEC completed an assessment of all service-learning designated classes to determine their alignment with the committee-developed definitions of community development shown on the next page. The assessment revealed several pathways forward for more effective cooperation in support of community-engaged and service learning coursework.

Ripple Effects Mapping

Are you currently involved in community-engaged scholarship and struggling to assess your current work and plan for the future? The Institute's staff may have a helpful solution for you. Ripple Effects Mapping is a holistic assessment practice initially used in Cooperative Extension work to understand the connections, relationships, processes, and people involved in creating a successful community-engaged project. Reach out to us today to schedule your session.

Be Here Club

Be Here Club (BHC) is an informal monthly social/networking gathering intended to make the larger UNCG community a little smaller. CE scholars, community partners, family and friends gather to find and build camaraderie and encouragement in their community-engaged work. Email us at communityengagement@uncg.edu for more information about Be Here Club and meeting locations. We would love to have you.

The P2 Fellows Program

This P2 Fellows program supports and advances community-engaged scholarship among UNCG scholars and community partners. The program provides funding and professional development opportunities to teams working in a context of reciprocity and mutual benefit to advance knowledge about, and accelerate activities to address, community-identified priorities. This program is unique in that projects span three years; the focus is on community-engaged methods, practices, and outcomes; and the funds support team-based, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary scholarship. Community-university partnerships are often limited in their capacity, reach, effectiveness, and sustainability because the aims and activities are often focused on the agenda of an individual scholar or community partner. By connecting to larger, more collectively designed teams in which the relationships, vision, plans, efforts, and outcomes are shared, the partnership can reach its full potential and be sustained.

Regional: North Carolina Campus Engagement

UNCG is a proud member of NC Campus Engagement (NCCE). North Carolina Campus Engagement is a collaborative network of colleges and universities committed to educating students for civic and social responsibility, partnering with communities for positive change, and strengthening democracy. The NC Campus Engagement state office fosters connections between campuses, shares best practice information and resources, recognizes outstanding work, and champions civic and community engagement in higher education.

National: Engaged Scholarship Consortium

UNCG is also a member institution of the Engaged Scholarship Consortium (ESC). The ESC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization composed of higher education member institutions, a mix of public and private colleges and universities. Its goal is to work collaboratively to build strong university-community partnerships anchored in the rigor of scholarship and designed to help build community capacity.



YOUR NEXT STEP

If you are a community-engaged scholar, or you think you may be one, we have resources to help with documenting your community-engaged work, including capturing your story in Collaboratory. If you aren't sure where your courses might fit, the definitions below may help! Whether you're new to the work or very familiar, we look forward to supporting you in your next step and all the ones after!

A 2022 self-study of community engagement at UNCG by the Community Engagement Council revealed the need for increased clarity and accuracy of the levels and forms of community engagement in the curriculum. How can greater conceptual clarity help to better map our students' experiences about, in, and with communities?

How can we support developmental pathways such that students may learn about community contexts and circumstances, as respectful and ethical engagement prior to engaging more deeply in and with communities?

Three interconnected, equally valuable, categories of curricular engagement support UNCG's ability to track, measure, plan, and support appropriate community-university connections.

Community-Focused

Occasional. Short-term.

Community Focused courses are **asset-based** opportunities for students to generate valuable knowledge about a **community**. They may visit a community site for a field trip and engage in a conversation before the visit to understand what kinds of data collection, successes, and concerns are prevalent in the community, but probably do not work with a long-term contact within the community to generate that data.

Community-Placed

Transactional. Recurring.

Community placed courses are **asset-based** opportunities for students to generate valuable knowledge in and for a **community**. They may visit a community site to better understand its needs and develop artifacts that reflect what they learn, or community involvement may serve to supervise student workers. Relationships are more transactional and short-term, in a supervisory capacity or as a guest-lecturer or tour guide, and reciprocity is thin, with an exchange of resources or labor.

Community-Engaged

Mutually-Beneficial. Reciprocal.

Community engaged courses are long-term, **asset-based** opportunities for students to engage in co-generation of valuable knowledge that is easily shared within the **community** because its members are fully incorporated into the course. Relationships are longitudinal and co-created, built on a foundation of interactions with the same organization or community, and reciprocity is thick, involving transformational knowledge for a community and students alike.

Faculty link their courses to the community at any level, and "swirl" among the three types as determined by their and the community's interest and capacity.

Useful links for beginning or continuing your community-engaged work:

Collaboratory Info: <https://cecollaboratory.com/>

Community-engaged Scholarship: <https://communityengagement.uncg.edu/scholarly-resources/>

Carnegie Classification: <https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu/elective-classifications/community-engagement/>

Be Here Club: <https://communityengagement.uncg.edu/community-engagement-fellows/be-here-club/>

P2 Grant: <https://communityengagement.uncg.edu/scholarly-resources/p2-grants-and-other-funding/>

NCCE: <https://nccampusengagement.org/>

Engaged Scholarship Consortium: <https://engagementscholarship.org/>

Excellence in Community Engagement V4: <https://issue.com/oretech/docs/v4-draft-for-digital-pages>