3-31-2016

Engaged Learning, Engaged Library

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Engaged Learning, Engaged Library

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Agenda

• Value of higher education
• Role of universities
• Defining engaged learning
• Characteristics and levels of engagement
• Integrating the library with engaged learning
Value of Higher Education

George Mason student shares debt struggles at congressional forum

Is college worth the cost?

Higher education
Is college worth it?

College Grads Question How Much a Degree Is Worth
The Role of Universities

Traditional
• Generate and transmit knowledge:
  • Research
  • Teaching
  • Service

Emerging
• Participate in a learning society through:
  • Discovery
  • Learning
  • Engagement

Engagement Academy, 2010
Defining Engagement

• APLU: Engagement is scholarly, cuts across the missions of teaching, research and service, provides reciprocal and mutually beneficial outcomes, and embraces the processes and values of a civil democracy.
Defining Engagement

- **Carnegie Community Engagement 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.
Defining Engaged Learning

- **University of Michigan**: Engaged learning can be conceived as a set of educational practices that provide students ... opportunities for practice by addressing the unexpected, unscripted challenges in imperfect, real-world settings where stakeholders beyond the students themselves are invested in the outcome.
Characteristics of Engagement

- Scholarly
- Mission
- Reciprocal and mutually beneficial
- Civil democracy
Indicators of Engagement

- Mission
- Leadership
- Promotion, tenure, hiring
- Organizational structure
- Faculty/Student involvement
- Community involvement
- Campus publications
Integrating the Library with Engaged Learning

• Course partnerships
  - First year writing
  - Environmental science
  - Sustainability in Appalachia

• University Engagement

• Collections and Digitization

• University Community Partnerships

• Community Service

*Flickr (JiscinfoNet), Northumbria University, 2006*
First Year Writing Course

• First-year writing course (4-credits)

• Theme based

• Assignments
  • Overview/analysis of the community organization
  • Research analysis

• Effect of service on research process
  • Increased motivation
  • Use of numerical data and primary sources
  • Increased knowledge in approaching and limiting topics
  • Potential for bias

*Flickr, Lex McKee, 2014*
Environmental Science

• Environmental and Food Justice
• Upper division course
• Discussions with faculty member
  • Planning process
  • Input into assignment and reflections
  • Multi-stage research paper
• Meetings with students.
Social and Environmental Sustainability in Appalachia

- 3 credit course with week-long service learning trip; Librarian is embedded
- 50% of the course grade is service learning participation, work, and reflection
- Assignments
  - Research paper
  - Incorporating scholarly articles in reflection paper
  - Essay quizzes that incorporate readings and lectures
University Engagement

• Core requirement/course tagging
• Weekly engagement
• Immersion programs
• Add-on credit
• Alternative breaks
Collections and Digitization

- Oregon State University Libraries
  - Oregon Explorer – natural resources digital library
  - Building Oregon – map-driven mobile website to learn more about historic Oregon buildings
  - Oregon Digital – joint project with the University of Oregon developing open source software for digital image collections

- University of Idaho Library
  - Received NEH grant to create digital and physical archive
  - “Common Heritage” event
  - Public lectures on digital scholarship and the value of community archives
University-Community Partnerships

• Santa Clara University - Thriving Neighbors Initiative
  • Supporting community based research and community organizations
  • Finding/using data such as census/community data
  • Connecting to the institutional repository
University-Community Partnerships

- West Bloomington Revitalization Project
  - Illinois Wesleyan University
  - Tool library
  - Institutional repository

- Near West Side Partners
  - Marquette University & 4 partners
  - Initial focus on promoting assets & reducing crime
Library Community Service
If colleges and universities become properly engaged with our communities, we can become the source of social capital for a new era.

Judith Ramaley, Portland State University
President, 1990-1997