Engagement Scholarship Consortium Congratulates 46 Institutional Members for Earning the 2026 Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement

For Immediate Release
March 31, 2026

The Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC) is pleased to recognize member institutions that earned the 2026 Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement. In a January 12th press release, the American Council on Education released the names of 239 institutions that achieved the classification in 2026. The list included the following 46 ESC institutional members:

Auburn University

Ball State University

Binghamton University

California State University – San Marcos

Drexel University

East Tennessee State University

Georgia College and State University

Illinois State University

Indiana University – Indianapolis

James Madison University

Kansas State University

Michigan State University

Mississippi State University

North Carolina State University

Northern Illinois University

Ohio State University

Oregon State University

Pennsylvania State University

Portland State University

Purdue University

Rutgers University – New Brunswick

Seattle University

Swarthmore College

Texas Tech University

University of Alabama

University of Alabama – Birmingham

University of Colorado – Boulder

University of Georgia

University of Illinois

University of Kansas

University of Kentucky

University of Louisville

University of Maryland – Baltimore

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

University of Missouri

University of Nebraska – Omaha

University of Tennessee – Knoxville

University of Texas – El Paso

University of Virginia

University of Washington – Seattle

University of Washington – Bothell

University of Washington – Tacoma

University of Wisconsin – Madison

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

West Virginia University

Youngstown State University

Awarded through a rigorous institutional self-study process, the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification represents the nation's foremost benchmark for recognizing excellence in community engagement in higher education. For nearly two decades, it has served as the leading framework for assessing and validating institutional commitment to community-engaged teaching, research, and service, with classification cycles in 2006, 2008, 2010, 2015, 2020, 2024, and most recently 2026.

For more information about the Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement, visit the American Council on Education website, at: https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu/elective-classifications/community-engagement.

The Engagement Scholarship Consortium is the premier resource for higher education institutions—and for their faculty, staff, students, and community partners—who are committed to promoting excellence in the scholarship and practice of community engagement locally and globally. Learn more about the ESC, at: https://engagementscholarship.org.