

Montana State University Joins the Engagement Scholarship Consortium

Contact: Hiram E. Fitzgerald, President, Engagement Scholarship Consortium, and Associate Provost, Michigan State University, Office of University Outreach and Engagement, (517) 353-8977, fitzger9@msu.edu.

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EAST LANSING, Mich. – Montana State University has joined the Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC), becoming the seventeenth and most recent higher education institution accepted for membership by the ESC board of directors.

Montana State University was founded in 1893 as a land-grant institution. Located in Bozeman, Montana, the University has a national and international reputation for excellence in undergraduate and graduate education in the liberal arts and sciences, agriculture, architecture, education, engineering, health and human development, and nursing. It is one of only 108 universities classified by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as having a "very high level of research activity," making it one of the top 2% of research institutions nationwide. More recently, the Foundation recognized the University with its community engagement classification, a national distinction acknowledging institutions that have aligned their mission, culture, leadership, resources, and practices to support exemplary community engagement. In 2011, a project by the Montana State University student chapter of Engineers without Borders won the national C. Peter Magrath Community Engagement Award. The partnership between Montana State University's students, faculty, the Bozeman, Montana community, and the people of Khwisero District of Western Province, Kenya developed potable water and sanitation facilities for 58 primary schools in Kenya.

"On behalf of the board of directors, we welcome Montana State University to the Engagement Scholarship Consortium, and value its recognition of university-community partnerships as a critical aspect of higher education's role in society," said Hiram E. Fitzgerald, ESC president and associate provost for University Outreach and Engagement at Michigan State University.

The ESC is composed of universities that work collaboratively to promote strong university-community partnerships anchored in the rigor of scholarship, and designed to help build community capacity. The Consortium, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit educational organization, actively seeks membership to include state/public and private higher education institutions from across the U.S., Canada, and the world.

ESC member institutions collaborate in the development and delivery of programs and educational resources that support the creation and advancement of knowledge underlying successful engagement scholarship initiatives in higher education. ESC's next annual meeting will be held at the University of Alabama on September 30-October 3, 2012.

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The Engagement Scholarship Consortium is committed to excellence in the scholarship and practice of engagement locally and globally. The ESC has articulated a broad scholarly agenda that includes:

- Researching and studying throughout the world, the scholarship of engagement
- Facilitating international cooperation among individuals concerned with promoting conditions that will bring about engaged scholarship as a criterion influencing higher education faculty performance evaluations
- Encouraging the realization that the scholarship of engagement is a critical aspect of university responsibility
- Promoting education, research and study of the effects of engaged scholarship on community-campus partnerships
- Promoting research and study of the impacts of community-campus partnerships
- Conducting meetings, workshops, institutes, symposia, conferences and congresses domestically and throughout the world
- Disseminating research (original, basic and applied) from a wide variety of disciplines on the impact of campus-community partnerships
- Discussing and sharing questions, problems, issues, information and theories regarding campus-community partnerships
- Advancing the study of campus-community partnerships and educating the public on effective programs for community change
- Publishing and communicating through print and electronic media the proceedings (including abstracts and scientific papers) of the aforementioned workshops, institutes, symposia, conferences or congresses
- Publishing and disseminating research on the scholarship of engagement through newsletters, books, monographs, reports, studies and periodicals, in any language, and also to make the foregoing available through electronic media

Its seventeen member institutions include:

American University of Nigeria
 Auburn University
 Colorado State University
 East Carolina University
 Michigan State University
 Montana State University
 North Carolina State University
 Ohio State University
 Oregon State University
 Pennsylvania State University
 Purdue University
 Texas Tech University
 University of Alabama
 University of Alberta
 University of Georgia
 University of Kentucky
 University of Wisconsin Extension

Additional information is available, at: <http://outreachscholarship.org>.