

# National Outreach Scholarship Conference changes name to Engagement Scholarship Consortium

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EAST LANSING, Mich. – The National Outreach Scholarship Conference (NOSC) has unanimously voted to change the organization's name to the **Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC)** at the annual meeting of its institutional members on October 3, 2011. The name change is effective immediately.

"The new name expresses the more broadly collaborative and reciprocal nature of the work between universities and communities," said Hiram E. Fitzgerald of Michigan State University, and board of directors' president for the Engagement Scholarship Consortium. "A great deal of thought and discussion went into this decision. The name change reflects the evolving nature of mutually beneficial partnerships and projects where researchers and community participants together explore solutions to real-world challenges."

The ESC is composed of 15 universities that work together to build strong university-community partnerships anchored in the rigor of scholarship, and designed to help build community capacity. Organized as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit educational organization, the Consortium is actively seeking to expand its membership to include state-public and private higher education institutions from across the U.S., Canada, and the world.

The National Outreach Scholarship Conference originated more than a decade ago when Pennsylvania State University, Ohio State University, and the University of Wisconsin-Extension initiated an annual meeting to share knowledge about their community-based programs. The three universities began formalizing the NOSC relationship and invited other institutions to join. Pennsylvania State University hosted the first annual meeting in 1999. The next annual meeting of the Engagement Scholarship Consortium will be held at the University of Alabama on September 30-October 3, 2012.

Further communication and branding efforts will move forward in the coming weeks and months to fully integrate the name change.

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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

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