LEARNERS AS LEADERS: CASE STUDY OF A STUDENT-LED ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

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Building Capacity in Students for Public Engagement

Context

Process and Projects
  • Engage Memorial
  • Evaluation

Framework
  • Competencies
  • Skills
OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Over $1,000,000 in academic/public partnerships

Over 265 faculty, students, and staff supported

More than 300 external partners supported
People, Place & Public Engagement
1. Research Funding
2. Perceived Lack of Student Participation
Public Engagement Evaluation

Committee
• 3 students, 2 staff

Survey
• 3 streams: public, students, and faculty and staff
OF THE 136 STUDENT RESPONDENTS:

81% REPORTED CAREER DEVELOPMENT as a motivation for doing publicly engaged work.

61% EXPRESSED INTEREST in leading a publicly engaged research project in the future.

8% REPORTED CO-DESIGNING/LEADING A publicly engaged project in the past.
Engage Memorial

Committee
• 4 students, 2 staff

Half-Day Conference
• Focusing on capacity building for students for public engagement
Entrepreneurialism
Career Development
Networking
“WHAT DO WE MEAN BY PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT?”

“WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A PUBLICLY ENGAGED STUDENT?”

“IN WHAT WAYS ARE STUDENTS ALREADY ENGAGED?”

“WHAT ARE THREE WORDS THAT BEST SUMMARIZE YOUR EXPERIENCE OF THE EVENT?”

“WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU LEARNED FROM THE PROCESS AND WHY?”
Communication
- presenting - knowledge mobilization
- listening skills - hearing
- mentorship
- networking
- adapting to target audience - laypeople, public surveys
- messaging - communication - media
- asks timely questions

Facilitation
1. Facilitation
- leadership (8% survey)
- decision making
- team work

2. Self-awareness
- reflection: allows us to enhance self
- authenticity: readiness - open
- accessibility
- nimble
- flexible

3. Sustainability
- leadership (8% survey)
- project management + evaluation
- needs assessment - project
- project design
- problem solving - creativity
- adaptability
Communication • Public Speaking • Messaging • Mentorship • Networking

Project Management • Teamwork • Leadership • Facilitation • Evaluation

Self-Awareness • Reflection • Trust • Flexibility • Commitment

Other skills recognized by the team and identified as important are: problem solving, decision making, knowledge mobilization, needs assessment, negotiation, mediation, story-telling, active listening, organizational skills etc.
Collaborative Approach

- Strengths-based
- Mutual management (co-ownership)
We were working as a team and there was a transfer of knowledge that was going on. That was what really got me trying things out.
Project Management (Competency)

Skill

- Facilitation
  - Planning

- Communication
  - Public Speaking
  - Messaging
  - Mentorship
  - Networking

- Project Management
  - Teamwork
  - Leadership
  - Facilitation
  - Evaluation

- Self-Awareness
  - Reflection
  - Trust
  - Flexibility
  - Commitment

Other skills recognized by the team and identified as important are: problem solving, decision making, knowledge mobilization, needs assessment, negotiation, mediation, story-telling, active listening, organizational skills etc.
Communication (Competency)

Areas
• Written (evaluation)
• Visual (poster)
• Social media (public)

Skill
• Messaging

Communication
• Public Speaking
• Messaging
• Mentorship
• Networking

Project Management
• Teamwork
• Leadership
• Facilitation
• Evaluation

Self-Awareness
• Reflection
• Trust
• Flexibility
• Commitment

Other skills recognized by the team and identified as important are: problem solving, decision making, knowledge mobilization, needs assessment, negotiation, mediation, story-telling, active listening, organizational skills etc.
Data choices, public-friendly visuals, and accessible language were all critically analyzed elements for the public audience.
Self-Awareness (Competency)

Reinforce Reflection
- Self-awareness

Skill
- Trust

Communication
- Public Speaking
- Messaging
- Mentorship
- Networking

Project Management
- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Facilitation
- Evaluation

Self-Awareness
- Reflection
- Trust
- Flexibility
- Commitment

Other skills recognized by the team and identified as important are: problem solving, decision making, knowledge mobilization, needs assessment, negotiation, mediation, story-telling, active listening, organizational skills etc.
Limitations and Recommendations

Mutual Management
• Group dynamics

Strengths-Based
• Weaknesses into strengths

Self-Awareness
• Reflection
Are You Building Capacity for Students?
Thank-you!

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY, OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

https://www.mun.ca/publicengagement/