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ABSTRACT

What should community engagement look like at a For-Profit College or University (FPCU)?

At this stage, community engagement will be defined as activities in which the institution reaches outside of its own boundaries to engage community members and organizations for a unidirectional or reciprocal benefit. The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLC), the accreditor of most regionally accredited for-profit colleges, changed its accreditation criteria to include language such as “commitment to the public good.” Some colleges have:

- Been challenged by HLC under this new standard,
- Embraced it through adoption of non-profit status, or
- Adopted “Public Benefit Corporation” status to, in part, demonstrate their commitment to public good.

A framework for analysis of community engagement work within FPCUs could be informed by input from a variety of stakeholders, leading to institutionally-appropriate goals, tailored instruments for institutional self-assessment, and continuous improvement of these boundary-spanning activities within the FPCU sector.

BACKGROUND

- Little is empirically or commonly known about the types of community engagement that FPCU’s pursue.
- FPCU’s are more like “teaching institutions,” differing in purpose somewhat from a “research institution” so the Carnegie Elective Classification may not be the appropriate framework for analysis.
- The various accrediting bodies of FPCU’s differ in their community engagement expectations of member institutions.
- Boundary spanning theory has not yet been applied to been applied to FPCU studies.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this study is to discover what community engagement activities members of non-profit colleges and universities (NPCUs), for-profit colleges and universities (FPCUs), community engagement researchers, and the community, believe FPCUs should be involved in that may, in part, demonstrate FPCU’s commitment to public good.

- Pilot study for broader study in the future
- Seek input from a variety of stakeholder-types (non-profit and for-profit)
- Develop a draft of a potential FPCU Community Engagement framework for self- and external analysis

PROPOSED METHOD

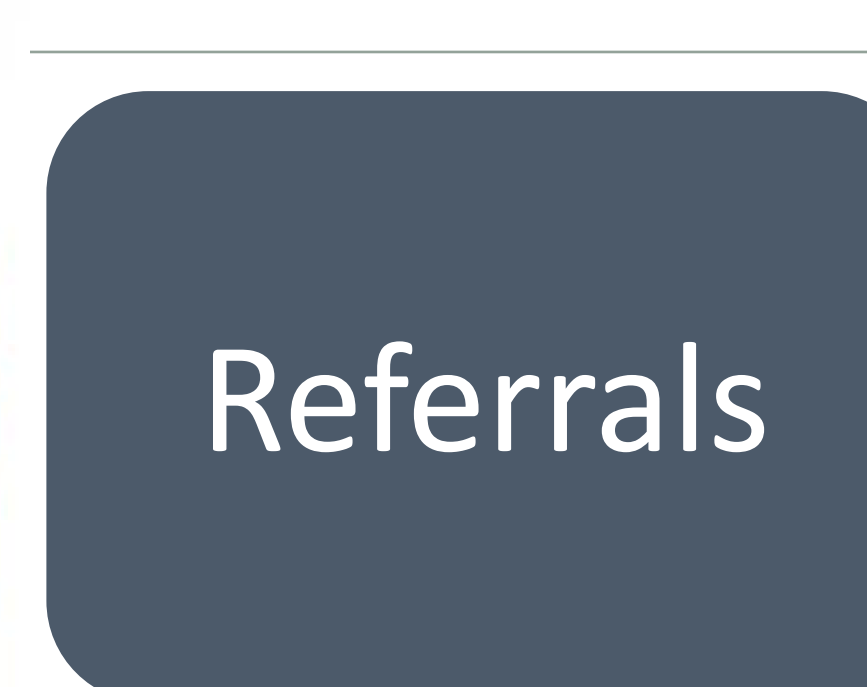
- External Action Research design is appropriate for addressing a specific issue such as the lack of an appropriate framework of analysis for Community Engagement in the context of FPCU’s.
- This researcher is an “insider” as an employee of a regionally accredited, for-profit college.
- Qualitative, open-ended questionnaires will be administered to five participant groups serving as “collaborative resources” to gather recommendations for a FPCU Community Engagement framework.
- Questionnaire analysis will be compared to existing frameworks for Community Engagement.
- A proposed framework will be developed, and, future recommendations will include a broader study and piloting of a new framework.

Proposed Participants

- Community Members
- Community Engagement Researchers
- For-Profit College/University Administration, Faculty & Staff
- Non-Profit College/University Administration, Faculty & Staff
- Students



NPCU & FPCU LinkedIn groups



Referrals to Students and Community Members



FPCU Research Interest Mailing List

WANT TO... FIND OUT HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY?*

JOIN A NEW GROUP FOR FPCU RESEARCH? STAY INFORMED?

- Complete paper survey at this poster station OR
- Express your interest at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPcommunity> OR
- Send an email to:
Magyar.s@husky.neu.edu

** Disclaimer: This is not a solicitation for study participation at this time.*

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