Community Engagement 2008-12

THE ENGAGED RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

Community engagement is an explicit goal of UAlbany’s and SUNY’s recent strategic plans. Our commitment is long-standing, growing from our roots as a state normal school (1844) and strategic location in New York’s Capital City. UAlbany is, in fact, a statewide partner with the public, private and non-profit sectors addressing many of the critical challenges of our times. Several schools and colleges were created to respond to state needs—e.g., in public policy, social welfare, public health. Our research, teaching and service mission drive engagement in fields ranging from the arts and humanities to the social and hard sciences to economic development.

Under the leadership of President George Philip, along with Provost Susan Phillips, UAlbany has worked to improve its systems, coordination and culture for advancing engaged work with local-to-global impact. Hundreds of examples, involving communities of diverse types, are available to the campus and public on the UAlbany-Community Connections website www.albany.edu/outreach.

A principal vehicle for achieving this goal is the Campus Committee on University-Community Engagement which the President and Provost created in January 2010. With over 30 members, CCUCE is co-led by Miriam Trementozzi, Associate Vice President for Community Engagement, President’s Office, and Dr. Robert Bangert-Drowns, the Dean of the School of Education. The group’s work builds on the 2009 Action Plan to Advance Community Engagement at UAlbany, developed by a steering committee (co-led in 2008-09 by Ms. Trementozzi and Dr. Lynn Videka, then Vice President for Research). All this work has been informed by the Carnegie Elective Classification in Community Engagement which provides a framework of self-study based on best practices at several institutions.

This report covers several strategic steps taken over the last few years to build on our distinctive strength as an engaged research university. Rapid advances have been made because of a shared goal and extensive campus collaboration. A listing of those involved in key groups can be found on page 6.

GAINING PUBLIC RECOGNITION FOR ENGAGED WORK WITH IMPACT

President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

For the past two years, the University applied for and successfully received designation on the national honor roll. The Corporation for National and Community Service has honored our students, faculty and staff for meaningful service achieving measurable community results. Thousands of students have contributed whether through volunteer work, courses and/or internships: over 6,800 in AV 2009-10 and nearly 7,400 students in AV 2010-11.

Exemplars for the first year included the Community and Public Service Program's three courses, with almost 700 undergraduates helping to build the capacity of 180 health, social service and other groups, many assisting high-needs populations. The School of Education's Community Service Course and the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities were the other two exemplars selected to demonstrate institutional commitment to service. Several units collaborated to develop the application including the President’s Office, Office of Undergraduate Education, Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness, the Division of Student Success and the Office of Graduate Studies.
Communities for Healthy Living (CHL) is an exemplary community-based participatory research project that has yielded an innovative family-centered approach to preventing childhood obesity among low-income families. The program was initiated by School of Public Health Associate Professor Janine Jurkowski (in photo, next to the President) and Dr. Kirsten Davison who obtained a $1.1 million National Institutes of Health grant in 2009. The primary partner is the Commission on Economic Opportunities for the Capital District headed by Karen Gordon (in photo, 2nd from left). A Community Advisory Board, largely comprised of Head Start parents, worked with the SPH to develop, implement and evaluate this multi-component childhood obesity initiative. Advisory Board member Kara Gilmore is on the far left.

Newman’s Own Foundation Campus Community Service Challenge
A partnership with the America East Conference, this challenge has recognized UAlbany student groups and their community partners for the last three years. Third World Impact won the $25,000 top prize in 2011 for plans to build an elementary school in Uganda with its local partner. Other winners were Students of Albany Against Cancer and Reclassifying All Children Equally. The Division of Student Success and the Athletics Dept. variously facilitated the applications. (Photo: UAlbany students and Ugandan children)

UAlbany’s First Community Engagement Awards
On May 4, 2012 President Philip launched UAlbany’s awards program for engaged research, teaching and service. The first awardees were the Honor Roll exemplars from the 2011-12 Honor Roll application. All addressed significant public needs, involved extensive student engagement, showed strong community partnerships, and had important outcomes and impact. The awards program was incorporated into the President’s annual regional community engagement forum, this year called Working for Community Impact: The Research University in Action. Provost Susan Phillips served as panel moderator for the event, with over 100 attending. CCUCE was important in helping the President’s Office advance this initiative which was a 2009 action plan recommendation. The programs receiving awards are presented below.

The Middle Earth Peer Assistance Program is an exemplary student-staffed and professionally supervised program providing hotline services and peer education to UAlbany, the region and beyond. Founded over 40 years ago, students and faculty assist hundreds of persons of all ages struggling with chronic mental illness, alcohol/drug abuse, interpersonal violence and other issues. From right: the President; Dr. M. Dolores Cimini, Middle Earth Director and Assistant Director, Prevention & Program Evaluation, University Counseling Center; Visiting Professor Guan, Peking University; Shuang Liang, UAlbany senior from China & Middle Earth vice president who was instrumental in an effort with Chinese universities; and community partner Robin Belansky, Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center. Dr. Cimini was recently honored by the White House as a “Champion of Change.”

The Master’s in Regional Planning Program in the Department of Geography and Planning, now 30 years old, has conducted exemplary joint efforts with community partners to help restore the physical and social fabric of Albany’s Arbor Hill, Sheridan Hollow and South End neighborhoods. Various faculty and their students have engaged in these efforts through innovative planning studios and course-based research. Building on this work, over the past five years Assistant Professor Corianne Scally (in photo, far right) has focused on Arbor Hill and Sheridan Hollow and, most recently, West Hill and the South End. Pictured also are: community partners, from left: (1) Charles Welge, Albany County Department of Health; (2) Kathleen Bronson, City of Albany; (3) Bob Radliff, Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region.
ADVANCING UNDERSTANDING OF COMMUNITY-ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

The Campus Committee on University Community Engagement created a working group in 2010 on community-engaged scholarship, chaired by School of Public Health Dean, Philip Nasca. In response to its charge, the group developed a discussion draft, Community-Engaged Scholarship: Definitions and Types at the University at Albany. The paper was posted on the UAlbany-Community Connections website for campus review in Spring 2012. The group’s work is helping to support the strategic plan.

The draft document was the springboard to a campus-wide forum held on April 20, 2012 featuring a national expert on engaged scholarship, Dr. KerryAnn O’Meara, Associate Professor of Higher Education, University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. O’Meara covered the nature and importance of engaged scholarship at research universities, the challenges community-engaged scholars can face, and strategies to address them.

A distinguished panel from UAlbany explored the nature of engaged scholarship here. They were (in photo, from left): Dr. Katharine Briar-Lawson, Dean and Professor, School of Social Welfare; Dr. Lawrence Schell, Professor, Dept. of Anthropology and Dept. of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and Director, Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities; Dr. Gilbert Valverde, Chair, Dept. of Educational Administration and Policy Studies, School of Education; and Dr. Edelgard Wulfert, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Professor of Psychology. Next steps are being developed.

ENGAGING STUDENTS THROUGH INTEGRATING CLASSROOM AND COMMUNITY

As anticipated in the strategic plan, the Campus Committee on University-Community Engagement is working to create a system to help increase curricular engagement with communities in order to enhance learning, enrich scholarship and foster community well-being. CCUCE’s working group on engaged learning has been led since 2010 by Dr. Sue Faerman, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. Recently Dr. David Rousseau, Interim Dean of Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, joined her as co-chair.

The group’s initial steps had been to define and categorize types of engaged experiential learning. The current effort is to sort out which courses at UAlbany are true service learning courses so they can be identified in the schedule of classes. This would enable more students to find and take courses that enrich their education through experiential learning involving classroom reflection.

In October 2011, UAlbany co-sponsored a regional forum with SUNY and New York Campus Compact (NYCC) focused on service learning. Over 80 faculty, administrators and students attended Engaging Students Through Integrating Classroom and Community. National expert Dr. Edward Zlotkowski spoke from his experience as the founding director of the Bentley Service-Learning Center, Bentley University and his work as general editor of the American Association for Higher Education’s 21-volume series on service-learning in the academic disciplines. A Shakespeare scholar, he inspired all who attended.

Also speaking were: Dr. David Lavalle, SUNY Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, NYCC Executive Director Dr. Laurie Worrall and a panel of three faculty members moderated by Provost Phillips. The forum laid the foundation for advancing service learning at UAlbany. Key planners were from the Office of Undergraduate Education and the President’s Office, along with the co-sponsors and the Office of Graduate Studies.
CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITIES IN NEW WAYS

President’s Regional Forums

Beginning in 2010, the President began an annual regional forum to spotlight UAlbany’s engaged work and provide an opportunity for conversation. The idea stemmed from a recommendation of the 2009 action plan. The forums are targeted to the diverse communities UAlbany serves from the arts, education and business to public health, social services, neighborhoods and international programs. Besides the most recent event, which launched the awards, the inaugural forum offered a broad overview of many of UAlbany’s distinctive engaged programs addressing public needs and interests. These activities were as diverse as the University in the High School Program, the New York State Writers Institute, programs for the aging, the Center for Financial Market Regulation and the Small Business Development Center.

The 2011 forum focused on the theme Investing In Young Talent to Grow our Future and Economy. Moderated by Dean Bangert-Drowns, the panel introduced regional leaders to key initiatives to help children and youth succeed.

A major focus was on Albany Promise, a developing cradle-to-career initiative co-convened by SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher and Albany Common Council Member Barbara Smith to assist children, youth and their families in three disadvantaged Albany neighborhoods. UAlbany is a major partner in developing the initiative. Panelists for Albany Promise included the co-convenors (first two seated from left) and Superintendent Raymond Colucciello and Dean Briar-Lawson (next two seated). Also featured were the Young Entrepreneurs Academy developed by School of Business Dean Donald Siegel and the Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities, represented by Dr. David Strogatz. A state health official also discussed the health issues affecting children.

Attended by approximately 170 leaders, a number of them were inspired to volunteer to help advance Albany Promise.

Community Service Month October 2011

UAlbany-Community Together was the theme of UAlbany’s first Community Service Month (CSM). President Philip, Student Association President Zafir Uddin, Graduate Student Organization President Heidi Nicholls, Superintendent Raymond Colucciello and Mayor Gerald Jennings participated in the Kick-Off event and announced a Student-to-Student Initiative to facilitate greater interaction among students beyond traditional tutoring and mentoring. Illustrating the concept, the launch included 45 students from the City School District of Albany (CSDA) performing with four UAlbany student clubs following a Talent “Mini” Camp focused on dancing, singing, stepping and cheerleading. Over 250 attended the event which was one of two anchor activities for Community Service Month. The Office of Student Involvement, Division of Student Success, worked with the President’s Office to organize the kick off and mini camp.

The sustained spotlight during October increased the visibility and awareness of UAlbany’s campus culture of community service. A group of about 30 led the effort, co-chaired by Miriam Trementozzi; John Murphy, Associate Vice President for Student Success; and Linda Krzykowski, Assistant Vice Provost for Student Engagement, Undergraduate Education. The Committee reached out to many students, faculty and staff to help connect existing and/or new activities into a common calendar and promotional effort. Activities ranged from the service learning forum already described—this was the 2nd anchor event—to several student- and staff-led initiatives such as community clean-ups after the disastrous Hurricane Irene and Residential Life’s many Leaders in Service programs.

The sponsors of Community Service Month were numerous. Besides UAlbany at large, they included the Student Association, Graduate Student Organization, University Auxiliary Services at Albany, the University at Albany Foundation, the University at Albany Alumni Association and University at Albany Dining Services.
Talent Camp Pilot

After Community Service Month, SA President Zafir Uddin sought to take the mini camp to the level of a pilot program in Spring 2012. The goal of the effort was to help Albany High School students develop their talents and at the same time enable them to gain insights into college and its many benefits. Four UAlbany student clubs provided coaches to a group of Albany High Students. These were: Knemesis (dance crew), Earth Tones (singing), Organized Chaos (stepping), and Phenomenal Voices (poetry, writing). The pilot culminated in a performance at the Knemesis Annual Show. Discussion is underway about next steps.

Several units worked with SA and the City School District of Albany to plan the program and provide administrative or other needed support. The group included the President’s Office, the Community and Public Service Program, School of Education and Division of Student Success. The University Auxiliary Services at Albany and the University at Albany Foundation were important contributors, among others.

COMMUNICATING ABOUT ENGAGEMENT

UAlbany is getting the word out about the many ways we address the needs of our schools, governments, health care providers, non-profits, businesses, neighborhoods and many other types of communities. These efforts, developed by the President’s Office, include:

♦ **“A Community Partner — Local to Global” Brochure:** Released in 2011, this is the University’s first brochure highlighting engaged work across the nine schools and colleges. It is distributed at events and through several units including Admissions.

♦ **UAlbany-Community Connections Website:** Created in 2001, the website is the gateway connecting the public and the university to information on hundreds of partnerships and outreach activities in practically any area of interest. The site was updated and revamped in 2008-09 as UAlbany changed over to a new user friendly software. The President’s Office coordinated the effort in partnership with the Office of Communications and Marketing and all relevant units. Cornell University’s outreach site was used as a guide for content presentation. OCM designed the new site, enhanced capabilities, resolved issues and trained unit liaisons on the new software. Launched in 2010, the site was disseminated by links on the webpages of chambers of commerce and other entities. [http://www.albany.edu/outreach/](http://www.albany.edu/outreach/)

♦ **Student Community Service in the Spotlight:** Many UAlbany student clubs make giving back to Albany and the region a priority whether through tutoring and mentoring, helping the elderly and hospitalized, staffing food banks, raising funds to cure disease or other important efforts. In 2011/12 their dedicated work was the focus of a 17-week series of articles written by student club leaders and published in the Albany Student Press. The articles are also posted on-line at [http://www.albany.edu/outreach/community_engagement_blog.php](http://www.albany.edu/outreach/community_engagement_blog.php),

FUTURE GOALS

Over the past 4 years, UAlbany has made great strides in connecting units and leveraging strengths in community engagement for external benefit and in fulfillment of UAlbany’s and SUNY’s strategic plans. The Campus Committee on University–Community Engagement network greatly facilitates cooperative planning and action with the President’s Office and other units to improve the systems and structures for engagement. Besides CCUCE’s initiatives in engaged scholarship and learning, a working group chaired by Kathleen Gersowitz, Assistant Dean for Administrative Services, College of Arts and Sciences, has been shaping a marketing plan related to cultural events and quality of life. Additionally, a major new area to be addressed is Assessment and Dean Bangert-Drowns is launching a group to do that. Albany Promise will continue as a major focus of several units.

Finally, given all this progress, CCUCE has its sights set on applying for the Carnegie Elective Classification in Community Engagement (2014-15), which like the Honor Roll, is used as a measure in the SUNY report card.
Co-chair: Lynn Videka, Division of Research
Co-chair: Miriam Tremontozzi, President’s Office
Pierre Alric, University Council
Mary Applegate, M.D., School of Public Health
Joel Berkowitz, Judaic Studies, College of Arts and Sciences (CAS)
Peter Bloniarz, College of Computing and Information
Katharine Brier-Lawson, School of Social Welfare
Frank D’Andraia, University Libraries
John Delano, University Senate
Sue Faerman, Office of Undergraduate Education

Virginia Goatley (initial rep), School of Education
Hayward Horton, Graduate Studies
Margaret P. MacClarence, University at Albany Foundation
Robert L. Miller, Jr., School of Social Welfare
Ruth Pagerey, School of Education
Donald Siegel, School of Business
Jeffrey Strausman, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy
Daniel Wuff, Dept. of Biological Sciences, CAS with Kathleen Gersowitz, CAS
Zheng Yan, School of Education
Staff: Sarah Imboden, President’s Office graduate student

CAMPUS COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY-COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2010—PRESENT (as of June 2012) * = Past members

CCUCE Members
Co-chair: Robert Bangert-Drowns, School of Education (also Chair of Assessment Working Group)
Co-chair: Miriam Tremontozzi, President’s Office (also Chair of Education Pipeline Working Group)
Pierre Alric, University Council
Robert Andrea, Jr., Office of the Provost
Peter Bloniarz, College of Computing and Information
Katharine Brier-Lawson, School of Social Welfare
Ray Bromley, Office of International Education
Mary Casserly, University Libraries
James Dias, Division of Research
Sue Faerman, Office of Undergraduate Education (Co-chair of Community Engaged Learning Working Group)
Donald Faulkner, New York State Writers Institute; alternate Suzanne Lance
Patrick Ferlo, Performing Arts Center
Thomas Gebhardt, Division of Student Success
Kathleen Gersowitz, College of Arts and Sciences (Chair of Cultural Events and Quality of Life Working Group)
Timothy Groves, College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE)
Cecilia Lauenstein, University Development
Alan Lizotte,* School of Criminal Justice
Lee McEloey, Department of Athletics
Mary Ellen Mallia, Office of Environmental Sustainability
Diana Mancini, School of Criminal Justice
Tamra Minor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, President’s Office
Philip Nasca, School of Public Health (Chair of Community-Engaged Scholarship Working Group)
Ruth Pagerey,* School of Education
Sanjay Putrevu,* School of Business
Loretta Pyles,* Community and Public Service Program
Vincent Reda, Office of Communications and Marketing
Janet Riker, University Art Museum (incoming Co-chair, Cultural Events and Quality of Life Working Group)
Bill Roberson and Kimberly Van Orman, Institute for Teaching, Learning and Academic Leadership, Ruth Scipione*
Daniel Rousseau, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy (Co-chair of Community-Engaged Working Group)
Lawrence Scheil, College of Arts and Sciences and Ctr. for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities
Lee Serravillo, Jr., University at Albany Alumni Association (incoming Co-chair of Cultural Events and Quality of Life Working Group)
Betty Shadrick, Graduate Studies
Hany Shawkwy, School of Business
Chris Smith, School of Education
Sharon Stevens, Community and Public Service Program
Daniel Wuff, Dept. of Biological Sciences, CAS
Staff: Anette Lippold,* Michelle Feder, President’s Office graduate students

Rotating Membership
● Graduate Student Organization: Thomas J. Devlin III & Genevieve Kane; Nic DePaula*
● Student Association: Arthur Rushforth & Kimberly Smith; Zafir Uddin;" Lauren Bailey* & Arthur Rushforth* (Senate); Justin Wax Jacobs* & Jay Wholley*
● University Senate: Chair; Susanna Fessler; Eric Lifshin*
University Planning and Policy Council: Eric Lifshin

CCUCE Contributors: Additional Campus Leaders Serving on CCUCE Working Groups
Carl Anderson, Department of Athletics
Joseph Bowman, Jr., School of Education
James Butterworth and Betsy Schuhle, Capital Area School Development Assoc., School of Education
James Castracane, University Senate (Council on Research)
Anthony Cresswell, Center for Technology in Government
John Delano, Dept. of Atmospheric & Environmental Sciences, CAS
Daniel Goodwin, Department of Art, CAS
Yenisel Gulate; Danielle Leonard,* University Senate (Univ. Life Council)
Richard Hamm, Department of History, CAS
Anne Hildreth, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy
Janine Jurkowski, Public Health
Theresa Pardoe, Center for Technology in Government
Gregory Stevens,* College of Arts and Sciences

COMMUNITY SERVICE MONTH OCTOBER 2011
Co-chair: Miriam Tremontozzi, President’s Office (& Kick-Off Event Co-chair)
Co-chair: Linda M. Krzykowski, Office of Undergraduate Education and School of Business
Co-chair: John Murphy, Division of Student Success
Jennifer Anderson, Division of Student Success
Robert Bangert-Drowns, School of Education
Katharine Brier-Lawson, School of Social Welfare
Holly Barker-Flynn, Division of Student Success (Kick-Off Event Co-chair)
Cynthia Calautti, College of Computing and Information
Donna Crisafulli, Chapel House Interfaith Center
Christina Crosley, Div. of Student Success (Volunteer Opportunities Co-Chair)
Sue Faerman, Office of Undergraduate Education (Academic Experience Co-Chair)
Thomas Gebhardt, Division of Student Success
Kathleen Gersowitz, College of Arts and Sciences (CAS)
Timothy Groves, College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering
Michael Jaromin, Division of Student Success
Steve Lampedusa, Division of Student Success
Tim Lawrence, University Auxiliary Services at Albany
Zina Lawrence, School of Business
Anette Lippold, President’s Office
Mary Ellen Mallia, Office of Environmental Sustainability
Diana Mancini, School of Criminal Justice (Marketing Co-Chair)
Elisa Martin, Community & Public Service Program (Volunteer Opportunities Co-Chair); Loretta Pyles, CPSF
Heidi Nicholls, Graduate Student Organization
James Pasquali, Office of International Education
Christine PREBLE, Graduate Student Organization
Deborah Privott, Leaders in Service Program, Division of Student Success
Catherine Reid, Catholic Campus Minister
David Rousseau, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy
Arthur Rushforth, Student Association Senate
Corianne Scally, Department of Geography & Planning, CAS
Elizabeth Norton Skrobela, School of Education
Sharon Stevens, Community and Public Service Program
Jennifer Svatik, Department of Athletics
Zafrir Uddin, Student Association
Lois Vera Cruz, Division at Albany Alumni Association
Kevin Williams, Graduate Studies (Academic Experience Co-chair)
Mark Wolfe, University Libraries

(U.S.) PRESIDENT’S HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOR ROLL — APPLICATIONS 2010/11 AND 2011/12
Co-Leader: Sue Faerman, Office of Undergraduate Education
Co-Leader: Miriam Tremontozzi, President’s Office
Joel Bloom, Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness
Michael Christakis, Division of Student Success
Anette Lippold, President’s Office
Bruce Szelest, Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness
Kevin Williams, Graduate Studies
CCUCE advisor: Robert Bangert-Drowns, School of Education