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Comments Community Engagement Center

UNO Office of Institutional Effectiveness
University of Nebraska at Omaha

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Comments Community Engagement Center

Themes

Health Outreach Students and Employee Wellness

Poverty

Privilege and Lack of Privilege

Conflict Engagement/Public Deliberation

What do we mean by “the common good?”

Critical Thinking in all areas

Residential learning Community geared around service

Poverty issues (both urban and rural)

Democracy and the Common Good

Community Building

Have a green building utilizing engineering, architecture, and energy providing mode

Big Picture Planning Teams of F/S and Community Experts (e.g. Energy)

Tied to Academic Programming

Conflict Resolution, Solution-based civic engagement

Existing Components

Student Community Service Office

Omaha By Design

Would ensure the university is more easily accessible to potential partnership resources

Lifelong Learning

Early childhood education

Leadership DW Institute

We need a building for these components

PKI is a beacon for technology outreach, study abroad and sister universities relationships, Alumni

Association and alumni in community

Training/ orientation to prepare people to work in the community especially with culturally/ economically diverse populations and website/database to quantify what is being done and contact person for each activity

Training before emersion on what to expect/ what is appropriate/ etc.

STD/HIV testing and treatment—currently community health experience for: Methodist

College, Clarkson College, and UNMC-NSQ PA Schools

Community Partner with NE AIDS project

Employee Wellness Smoking Cessation, BP management, etc

Currently part of Community Higher Ed Alcohol and Drug Coalition

State and County level disaster planning

Nebraska Shakespeare Festival—22 years

Dedicated Space

Collaboration with Service Learning office

Economic Development

Where is the engagement with integrating the teaching of foreign language?

If it's going to be another 3-4 years before the center is built, you can't predict very clearly--so preserve any open and flexible concepts

Excellent indicator for non-profits
Service-Related Students Groups (Environmental Clubs)
Grant Writers?
Neighborhood Center
Non-profit organizational management

Areas of Exploration

Library of resource material
OCF - satellite
Digital measures can help quantify service and outcomes
Collaborative communication on UNO projects (wiki-based) for reporting
Include practicum in social work, teacher education and other disciplines
Community engagement general education requirement
Computer labs for community programs able to use new technology
Engagement of student organizations. "Show and Tell", photos, posters on display
Outreach Czar - a dean of Outreach, flexible utility space, extended learning program, Capstone Center
Bemis-like rotation...space and resources to develop and program or project
East side community welcome center
Fireside chats by topic, play space/creative space, one living room atmosphere/space (not classroom) with windows
Certificate of community engagement and mission trips (international)
Research outreach museum - centennial display to describe work UNO faculty and students do, corridors of service and contact (I29, I80) and special corridors in NE - Think of UNO outreach as a corridor of contact where we frequently and continually make contact across the region of the state - we need a map of our contacts - and those constituents need to be able to "land" our community engagement facility
Native American Center for Native Americans in the Omaha area currently not served
Becoming the "Community Student Health" providing services for Metro, Bellevue, CSM, etc. Manage college health related TB screenings, health insurance (rates would be for all) immunization, potential revenue service for UNO
Center for Action Research (applied research that involved community members as co-researchers)
Signage to make whole university be community friendly
Fundamental Critique of Privilege
Adapt/Expand Frenion[?] Liberatory Education
Windows in Kayser!
Liaison from engagement facility to Residence Life
Community health issues
Professional Development Schools-Centers of Pedagogy
Rural Schools and Communities

STUDENT VOICE: Students directly engaged in community engagement through
CBPR, Service Leadership, Volunteering
Faculty fellows engagement with a charter or school to train teachers. It could be an

elementary, middle school, or high school.
Long-Term Planning Teams
Longer-term multidisciplinary team projects consisting of faculty, staff, and community
Members
Information center—friendly/welcoming/helpful staff
Fundraising
Mini-community center—something open to the public

Structure/Facility Ideas

Support for grant writing
Best practice information
Curricular support for faculty to assist them in integrating CE into courses
Lounge for interactions
Parking access - immediate and easy windows
Consultants for research methods/programs/data sets/ etc.
Supply area for community groups without sufficient office space
Business/ entrepreneur space - days in/start up resources, parking needs to encourage access, speakers because they attract people to use the facility (like CPACS Collaboration Commons but space for community service)
Space for community links, meetings and work
Research that relates to reservation needs (health issues, water quality, etc.)
Offer cubical space to different organizations on campus who are involved in CE so that it is their own space yet it brings the organizations together
Develop niche areas centered around local/regional programs, organizations (homeland security)
Western Hills classroom for magnet activities
Health—could be managed out of new SH facility in HPER
Avoid Ghetto-izing CE on far east side
Any big designed community space needs to be welcoming and inviting from the outside, and then be truly open, airy, light and spacious[?] inside, great flexibility,. Think circles, not rectangles. Thus, no Nebraska architect can be allowed to design it because it requires imagination. Also, don't put a huge concrete façade on the front. (The MBSC will never recover).
Building specifically designed to be a service learning “themed” community where programming/interaction revolves around theme.
Kayser Hall lacks places to make coffee, relaxation places. These will be important for collaborative spaces.
Multi-faceted large conference space
Model it as a GREEN facility---Geo Thermal
Make the building as flexible as possible
A collaborative center and space that facilitates improving our schools. We need students involved in planning.

Lights! The nature of a dark dismal building does not encourage creative activity.
Shared Overhead cost and functionality to demonstrate to community an efficient

grouping of organizations

Other

*Help units better determine if their programs are "Community Engagement" - and not something else.*Resource office for volunteering/ service*H.S. Service learning in Omaha - bring them into UNO CE projects - great recruiting tool too? (Westside has a service learning component)*Digital measures - use to access

* List of Faculty with their interests and competencies who are willing to volunteer their services to community agencies - particularly the non-profit service sector. Leverage to Allwine Prairie and Elkhorn River properties that biology runs to connect the disciplines and community to the biome: Omaha as part in a unique, particular landscape. Get-together of community engagement organizations to share barriers and share advice.*Engagement counseling*Staffing for the space that will be central* We need more prominent creative performing activity (not necessarily theater or music) but cutting edge, merging entertainment and expression. Our campus could become a hub of future - looking aesthetic and creative endeavors...remember Richard Florida "The Creative Class"

*We need to address environmental topics more with our community partners - can we make Keyser an example of him to "green" an existing facility? Keyser would be a location where recognition "Hall of Community Engagement" fame could be established

There needs to be more collaboration with the Native American Community - existing organizations like the Fred LeRoy Urban Indian Health Col, reservations/ Tribes. Need to determine if these should be a Native American center created using the nonprofit incubate* A required class that incorporates 1) current regional issues and 2) service projects to help create awareness and promote service and CE. (like Creighton's required "freshman seminar"

*Put community service information in orientation packets or let students know at college visits*Have info desk/station for students/faculty/comm. Members to stop in and find a program to help with & donate time or resources to make it easy to find something and get involved

*Provide CE certificate that students and faculty could earn and receive

*Get local businesses involved with community service programs along with students

* Do community wide service days with businesses, schools, UNO (students and faculty)*MOEC would move into a larger space

*Establish provider then recruit people to come

*House internships/clearinghouse for volunteerism

*Coop center/ define coop different from internship

*House United Way loaned executive

*INROADS and other similar programs for student internships and offer experiential learning programs

*Facility needs to be accessible and have easy parking

*Provide community engagement training for all faculty and staff to provide a buy-in from all entities*Home Room - for groups that come to campus to participate in whatever. People could mobilize in a given room, then go where ever.

*Using faculty, or adjunct faculty, offer more in the way of professional certification opportunities.

* Some of the kind of things that were done at PKCC, but here on campus.* Distance options to work with those around the state and world

*Don't forget about the staff - giving staff options to be able to have the opportunity to contribute.

Staff so many times cannot leave their office.*Crossroads would be a good location for a community engagement facility* Have representation from each college (grass root participation)

*Maintain the connection with the college - someone who is accountable and resources are dedicated to it

*Don't spend more resources on the facility than the initiative

*Incubator space - individual space for projects

*Better reporting - results - credibility

*Don't lose community connections

*Continue to try to think differently *Outreach to increase/expand meaningful democracy in the workplace regarding issues important to employers and employees

*90%+ of the workforce are employees who sell their knowledge, experience, and strength in exchange for the wage. They need to support themselves and their families

*William Brennan Institute for Labor Studies to the registry of community engagement

Figure out a way for UNO to be seen as “the” resource to help solve problems in our local and perhaps regional community. We need to define our areas of expertise in community engagement and develop a reputation so the community will turn to us in times of need.

Provide a space for community members to find/locate resources on the UNO campus

Our graduates (young administrators and young teachers) are living in suburban areas and commuting to urban areas to teach on lead. What do these administrators and teachers know and understand about community life? What contributions do they make and offer these communities? Revitalizing community life and advancing democratic practice goes far beyond buying an occasional tank of gas in the community. We can teach students to use community based learning that contextualizes the curriculum through the lens of community life. This will enhance and grow communities.

COAT RACKS (seriously)

Need good transparent services and parking

Elementary school that is a learning laboratory—creates a school people want to send their kids to.

Could be middle school/high school.

Distance learning capabilities—opportunities to share speakers, etc. Broader access

Allows UNO to engage the entire state

Open environment, flexible, nurturing

Broadening access (distance learning capability)

Model for green, sustainability

Facilitating communications and data gathering (technology)

Equipped for innovation and creativity

Co-creation of community entities (on rotational basis?)

Multi-media for communication

One-time and on-going sustaining collaborations

Large and small groups capacity—summits and small group breakouts and dialogues

Center for sustainability planning, CDPH, SPA, CDE, Congressional delegation and other area experts

Transition Planning (Departure from cheap and abundant oil to a new economy—economic planning, alternative energy, transportation, regional planning)

Volunteer Resource Center