FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD, TOGETHER:
Building Institutional Capacity for Community-University Partnerships

Michael Rios, Vice Provost of Public Scholarship
Putting the “public” in the public university?

Does your research and/or teaching at UC Davis? (Check all that apply)

- Involve mutuality beneficial partnership with a non-university entity: 37%
- Define and/or solve problems through collaboration with non-university groups: 33%
- Involves neither of these, but interested in doing work like this: 14%
- Involves neither of these, and not interested in doing work like this: 4%
- Elaborations on the above responses: 12%
Supportive structures of community-university partnerships

- Cooperative Extension
- University-based Centers
- Multi-year Initiatives
- Non-profit or Public Benefit LLC
- Executive-level Office
Why university community engagement? Why now?

- Student Success
- Faculty Recognition
- Equity & Inclusion
Community Engaged Learning as a High Impact Practice for Student Success

• Underrepresented student groups who engage in high-impact practices demonstrate greater gains (Kuh, 2008)
• 1st year service learning students achieve higher GPAs and graduation rates (Song et al. 2018)
• Community-engaged learning enhances sense of belonging, academic success, and persistence of underrepresented students (Barrett & Jenkins, 2018; Pak, 2018; Yeh, 2010)
From Epistemic Harm to Epistemic Belonging: Recognizing Faculty Public Scholarship

- Historically underrepresented groups are disproportionately involved in community engagement (Demb & Wade, 2016; Hoppe et al., 2019).
- Merit and promotion factors as barriers (Rios and Sacco, forthcoming).
- Perceived institutional support encourages collaboration with local communities (Vogelgesang et al., 2010)
Alignment with Equity and Inclusion

- BIPOC faculty commitment to community engagement (Antonio 2002; Doberneck et al., 2011)
- Women and faculty of color more likely to work with external audiences (Lunsford & Omae, 2011)
- Learning in diverse community settings provides culturally-relevant pedagogy and creates a sense of belonging (Barrett & Jenkins, 2018; Pak, 2018).
- Black women faculty support for civic engagement and service learning (Wheatle & BrckaLorenz, 2015)
A recent history of university community engagement at UC Davis

2011
Occupy UC Davis Student Pepper Sprayed

2012
UC Davis Forums on the Public University and the Social Good

2013
Communities and Scholars Engaged (CASE)

2015
Carnegie Classification
Community-Engaged Scholarship at UC Davis: A Strategic Vision

2017
Imagining America

2018
Office of Public Scholarship and Engagement

2019
Public Scholarship for the Public Good: An Implementation Framework for UC Davis
Next Steps: **10 Actions in 365 Days**

1. Establish **Advisory Committees** related to: 1) Faculty Development and Recognition, 2) Student Learning, and 3) Community Engagement. These advisory groups will provide guidance and feedback to OPSE as specific activities are implemented.

2. Create a **web-based portal for engaged scholarship and engaged learning**. This will include resources, opportunities, a searchable directory, a calendar of events, and stories of engagement.

3. Collaborate in the **creation and launch of a UC Davis facility in Sacramento** that will serve as a physical hub to support engagement initiatives and projects with non-university partners. The facility would include shared co-working space, a conference/classroom, an open area for public events, and a range of small meeting spaces.

4. Establish an **Engaged Scholarship Faculty Fellows** program to advance significant contributions to, and exploration of, theories and practices that will cultivate and foster a culture of engagement at UC Davis. This cohort-based program will be organized around monthly meetings, mentorship, and the development of a major publication.

5. Establish an **Engaged Learning Faculty Fellows** program to create and improve community-based student learning experiences that will cultivate and foster a culture of engagement at UC Davis. This cohort-based program will be organized around monthly meetings, mentorship, and the development or improvement of a course.

6. Develop **10 pilot projects with UC Davis colleges, schools, and other academic units**. Possibilities might include engagement action plans, coordination mechanisms to support curriculum-based projects with non-university groups, and document templates for memoranda of agreements, community IRBs, scopes of work, among others.

7. Co-sponsor **10 trainings or workshops** with faculty, staff, students, and community stakeholders. Specific topics may include community engagement theory and practice, translational and action research, communicating research to public audiences, and intercultural communication, among others.

8. Expand **community internship and clinical programs** to serve urban and rural communities in the Sacramento region. The goal is to improve coordination and expand upon existing opportunities at UC Davis’ professional schools, Internship and Career Center, Global Affairs Office, Arboretum and Public Garden, and other centers that are focused on student career and leadership development.

9. Organize an **annual Community Engagement Forum** to solicit ideas and suggestions from community partners. The event would showcase model collaborations, identify ways to access university resources, and offer consultative services to help community groups develop research and curriculum-based projects, and respond to technical assistance requests.

10. Support a **university-wide taskforce that will explore ways to achieve greater recognition of public scholarship within university policies, program reviews, and faculty recruitment, merit, advancement, and promotion reviews**.
Accomplishments: Faculty Engagement

45 awards funded to UC Davis researchers and non-university partners totaling over $330,000

Supporting 7 UC Davis schools and colleges with 60 non-university partners annually

Our faculty fellowships have championed 47 fellows across 8 of our UC Davis colleges and schools in 3 years, fostering meaningful community relationships.
Accomplishments: Student Engagement

In 2 years, we’ve supported 20 graduate students from 16 disciplines via 10-week seminars and mentorship to pursue community engaged work.

In 1 year, we’ve connected 283 fellows from 4 campuses with 54 host sites partners to serve their communities.
Accomplishments: Community Engagement

54 Agreements with Community Partners

$60K Direct Grants to Community Organization Partners

176 Programs entered in our Public Engagement Portal
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AT UC DAVIS

ACADEMIC INTEGRATION

Aligning Activities
Mobilizing Resources
Advancing Policies & Practices toward Collective Impact

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

COMMUNITY HEALTH & WEALTH

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT
Lessons Learned

• Data-driven programming and communication
• Horizontal and vertical organizing
• Go slow to go fast
Strategies for Institutional Change

1. Identify common ground
2. What is the ask?
3. Motivate action, shift priorities
For more information:

https://publicengagement.ucdavis.edu/
email: engaged@ucdavis.edu