

4 Community Engagement Partnerships

In 2010, JMU was classified as a Carnegie Community Engaged University. As one of only 361 of the more than 4,000 universities in the U.S. to receive the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, JMU's commitment to engagement is obvious. This prestigious ranking recognizes the tradition of meaningful, valuable and sustainable community engagement built into the DNA of JMU. According to the Carnegie Foundation, community engagement "describes the collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity." This guidebook focuses on ways O&E can help you facilitate work with(in) communities.

There are two ways to approach community engagement:

- **In traditional classroom spaces**, these projects may inspire a faculty member to partner with the Boys and Girls Club of Harrisonburg & Rockingham County to lead JMU students in offering on-site tutoring or to introduce dance and movement as a means of community building in The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham, Generations Crossing and child care centers. These projects tend to result in students receiving credit for coursework as well as gaining valuable experience with new communities.
- **Outside the classroom**, learning may not be directly linked to a particular class but instead be based on a faculty or staff member's expertise or intellectual interests. For example, projects like Saturday Morning Physics, D.I.G.I.T.A.L. and other youth programs engage with the PK-12 community. And programs like the Space Camp, presented by O&E, the Physics & Astronomy Department and the John C. Wells Planetarium, offer another model of community engagement as JMU faculty work to share resources with the community.

The key component to community engagement is having a community partner. It is our belief that partnerships will fall on a continuum that may be informal or formal and will reflect multiple modes of engagement evolving over time as the partnership grows and changes. There are three words that help explain this continuum: to, for and with. Those working with(in) communities may identify their approach by asking a few questions: Are you offering a service **to** the community? Are you doing something the community is asking **for**? Are you working collaboratively **with** the community? The chart below offers some specific examples of to/for/with initiatives.

"To" Public Services	"For" Community Outreach / Continuing Education	"With" Engaged Learning / Research
Sporting Events	Youth Development	Service Learning
Arts and Culture	Workforce Development	Internships
Library Services	Tech Transfer	Community Based Research
Facility Use	Lifelong Learning	Economic Development
Volunteering	Degree Completion	Study Abroad
<i>leads to</i> ↓	<i>leads to</i> ↓	<i>leads to</i> ↓
Community Participation	Community Involvement	Strong Bi-directional Relationship