

Engaging Scholarship for Public Impact

Lawrence Community Leaders Focus Group

January 25, 2011 – 5:30-7:30pm

Nunemaker Center

1. Welcome
 2. Introductions
 3. Review of Agenda
 4. Focus Group Objective
 5. Review of Ground Rules
 6. Dialog
 7. Wrap-up
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Focus Group Objective:

Identify areas of engagement between the university and public/private sectors that foster scholarship, enhance economic development, and address societal issues.

Dialog Questions:

Realizing that areas of research at KU and areas of need in Lawrence and in Kansas may not always overlap or cross, we are eager to find those natural and necessary intersections. We want to open a conversation that will continue into the future, building relationships and investing in the expansion of knowledge. From your point of view...

- is KU effectively engaged in the community? How could it be better?
- how would you react if the University's response was that it has no research strength, expertise or resources in place to address your cited need?
- in what ways do you envision KU engaging scholarship for public impact?
- in light of the current budgetary situation, what forms of research do you consider to be of the highest priority?
- do you believe KU's engaged scholarship enhances the quality of life in our community and beyond?
- does engaged scholarship to you mean improved economic development or the broader definition provided with your materials?

Wrap-up:

Have we effectively discussed engaging scholarship that you could articulate it to others? What would you suggest we do different when discussing engaging scholarship for public impact with constituencies external to the University?

What is Engaged Scholarship?

Community engagement describes the collaboration between the University of Kansas and the larger community (local, regional, state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange, creation, or enhancement of knowledge and resources. Community engagement can integrate teaching, research, and service.

Engaged scholarship is community engagement with the **additional result** of contributing to the body of knowledge as demonstrated through dissemination and assessment conducted within an acceptable peer-review process.

Why is It Important?

KU strives for engaged scholarship to enhance quality of life, both in those communities with whom we work as well as those beyond our direct involvement.

Engaged scholarship is supported at the highest levels of the university and employs diverse strategies and approaches. It exists on a continuum of varied strength and intensity of the community–university collaboration. It is rigorous in its conceptualization, execution, and its methods of knowledge dissemination, and consistent with the mission and goals of the University.

Exemplars of engaged scholarship include projects that address high-priority societal challenges associated with energy, sustainability, health, education, economic and workforce development, and the creation of a just and civil society; artistic, critical, and historical work that contributes to public debates; and experiences in the arts and humanities that add to the richness of life in Kansas and beyond.