

# Engaging Scholarship for Public Impact

Focus Group Topics and Intended Outcomes

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## **Focus Group Topics and Intended Outcomes:**

1. Solicit feedback on the engaged scholarship definition
2. Identify the various kinds of engaged scholarship on campus by participants.
3. Identify the departments and schools with large and/or small amounts of engaged scholarship
4. Identify any barriers to engaged scholarship
5. Identify policy changes that may enhance engaged scholarship in the departments, colleges, and 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.

**DRAFT – ESPI Goals, Characteristics, & Outcomes** (as of 1/11/11)

**ESPI Goal:**

KU will engage local, state, national, and global communities as partners in scholarly activities that have direct public impact.

**ESPI Characteristics:**

1. Community-engaged scholarship will be recognized and valued as a legitimate form of scholarly activity.
2. Partnerships will include a wide range of activities, e.g., technology commercialization, advances in K-12 education, service learning experiences, entrepreneurship, etc.
3. The university will facilitate and support community-engaged scholarship.
4. Students will participate fully as partners in the success of the enterprise.
5. Scholarly activities will be facilitated by leveraging current and future outreach activities.

**ESPI Outcomes:**

1. Recognition, facilitation and support of engaged scholarship
2. Mutually productive partnerships with the community for engaged scholarship
3. Learning and scholarship experiences for students
4. Additional scholarship opportunities using existing community engagement activities