The Community Engagement and Service Mission of Universities

Edited by Patricia Inman and Hans G. Schuetze
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The untapped energy of universities and other institutions of higher education to address regional issues seems endless. Issues less defined by political boundaries and increasingly defined by place call for a new type of engagement. Generating knowledge with communities rather than for communities contrasts sharply with traditional university attitudes that offer expertise rather than appreciation of indigenous knowledge. This highly topical book addresses the widespread discussion about the regional community function of universities, with particular emphasis on economic and social development, discussing the challenges of engagement, but also the possibilities. Developing policy with such a worldview requires new skills focusing on developing relationships and facilitating collaboration. Finding common ground between diverse stakeholders requires innovation and a new set of tools. This book discusses the obstacles to collaboration and provides strategies for addressing these.

Essential reading for international researchers, practitioners and policy makers concerned with higher education and government, the book provides a foundation for understanding the concepts of both regional policy and engaged higher education institutions. In addition to the theoretical insights gained into the new relationship between universities and communities, the text also illustrates the theory with experiences and innovative examples from well-known institutions of higher education.

Patricia Inman is Senior Research Associate at the Center for Governmental Studies, Northern Illinois University, USA

Hans G. Schuetze is Professor Emeritus of the Department of Educational Studies, University of British Columbia, Canada

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Contents

The Community Engagement and Service Mission of Universities: An Introduction by the Editors

Part one: Universities’ role in regional development and their ‘third mission’
Chapter 1: Universities and their missions (Hans G. Schuetze, University of British Columbia, Canada)
Chapter 2: Engaging with difficulty – Universities in and with regions (Chris Duke, PASCAL, UK)
Chapter 3: Social processes in regional development (Bruce Wilson, RMIT University, Australia)
Chapter 4: How to benchmark university–community interactions (David Charles, Curtin University of Technology, Australia; Paul Benneworth, University of Twente; Cheryl Conway and Lynne Humphry, Newcastle University, UK)
Chapter 5: Measuring the impact of community–university research partnerships: Theories, concepts, tools, and practices (Nirmala Lall, University of Victoria, Canada)
Chapter 6: Institutionalising university engagement (Patricia Inman, Northern Illinois University, USA)

Part two: North America perspectives and experience
Chapter 7: The “third mission” and the history of reform in US higher education (Robert Gleeson, Northern Illinois University, USA)
Chapter 8: Public universities and regional development (Kathryn Mohrman, Arizona State University, USA)
Chapter 9: How to strengthen the third mission of the university: The case of the University of British Columbia Learning Exchange (Margo Fryer, University of British Columbia, Canada)
Chapter 10: The university-based researcher in indigenous communities: Participatory research as a dialogue for redefining the “Other” in university–community relations (Seth A. Agbo, Lakehead University, Canada)
Chapter 11: The social community service programs as generators of citizenship values: The case of the Community Outreach Program (Hugo Gutierrez and Nora Guzman, Tecnologico de Monterrey, Mexico)
Chapter 12: Community-based research as community engagement: Tales from the field (Shauna Butterwick and Penny Gurstein, University of British Columbia, Canada)
Chapter 13: From service to engagement: Moving margins to the center (Paul Crawford, Anne Kaplan and Diana Robinson, Northern Illinois University, USA)
Chapter 14: Designing faculty reward systems as a means of promoting the third mission of universities (Melvin Hill and LaVerne Williamson Hill, University of Georgia, USA)
Chapter 15: Community engagement and collective agreements: Patterns at Canadian universities (James E. Randall, University of Northern British Columbia, Canada)
Chapter 16: Towards a new architecture of knowledge: The Office of Community-Based Research at the University of Victoria (Budd L. Hall and Lise Berube, University of Victoria, Canada)
Chapter 17: Inter-university partnership for community engagement: A case study of Canada’s French-language minority (Harley d’Entremont, Laurentian University, Canada)
Chapter 18: The third mission and the laboratory: How translational science engages and serves the community (Janet-Atkinson-Grosjean and Conor Douglas, University of British Columbia, Canada)
The community engagement and partnership of universities, sometimes termed alternatively their “third mission” (besides the first two missions, teaching and research), is not an entirely new theme, yet it has come again to the fore and renewed attention of policymakers, university leaders, and international organizations (OECD 1983; OECD 1999; OECD 2001; Inman and Schuetze 2010). There are a number of questions that need clarification: What is meant by “third mission” activities or “community service”? What type of activities are included? In The Community Engagement and Service Mission of Universities edited by Patricia Inman, and Hans G. Schuetze, 33–49. Leicester: National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE). Edquist, Charles. UNIVERSITIES THIRD MISSION: COMMUNITIES ENGAGEMENT B-HERT POSITION PAPER NO. 11 June 2006 The purpose of the Business/Higher Education Round Table (B-HERT) is to pursue initiatives that will advance the goals and improve the performance of both business and higher education for the benefit of Australian society. Third Mission funding goes beyond supporting extension programs and community service. In practice Third Mission activities of universities seek to generate, apply and use knowledge and other university capabilities outside academic environments.
Mission The mission of the University of Cambridge is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence. Core values The University's core values are as follows: Mission. The mission of the University of Cambridge is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence. Core values. The University's core values are as follows: All members of the community are engaged together in discovering and advancing knowledge and practice. Learning occurs not only in the classroom, but also through engagement in campus life and in communities and organizations beyond the university. Discovery, creativity and innovation are hallmarks of UCLA. Civic engagement is fundamental to our mission as a public university. Located on the Pacific Rim in one of the world's most diverse and vibrant cities, UCLA reaches beyond campus boundaries to establish partnerships locally and globally. UCLA endeavors to integrate education, research and service so that each enriches and extends the others. This integration promotes academic excellence and nurtures innovation and scholarly development.