

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources through intentional collaboration between SHSU and our community partners.

ACADEMIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (ACE): a formal designation given to courses using a teaching method that combines academic instruction with community engagement, requiring students to use what they learn in the classroom to collaborate with community partners.

- Examples include: Kinesiology course partnering with local school district to design and teach adapted physical activities for students and Technical Writing course partnering with local police department to create standard operating procedures and marketing materials for the unit.

COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP: a collaborative process for research or creative activity that has the explicit goal of contributing to the public good.

- Examples include: (research example) Collaboration between a professor studying police procedures and a local police department to develop and implement a system for processing backlogged sexual assault kits. (creative activity example) A professor of art collaborates with a local non-profit supporting families of incarcerated people to create an exhibit of art made by family members to strengthen awareness of the impacts incarceration has on families and children.

COMMUNITY ENGAGED INITIATIVES/STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS: Projects, agreements, contracts in which any university entity works *with* the community to work for the public good.

- Examples include: An infrastructure project in which the university worked with the city to remedy the water drainage issues on the north end of the intramural fields that resulted in street flooding.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: students, faculty, and staff participating in opportunities related to current events and governance activities.

- Examples include: serving on local boards and committees, participating in Deliberative Dialogues, speaking at city council meetings, collaborating with the local public library to support citizenship preparation courses, and voting.

PUBLIC SERVICE: includes community outreach and volunteerism in which university entities (colleges, departments, faculty, staff, and students) provide expertise, resources, and support to or for communities and the general public. Note that community service is sometimes NOT voluntary, but a mandatory sentence, and we therefore avoid using the term “community service.”

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: a type of public service where the university as an institution or its members (students, faculty, staff) *design and provide* programs, initiatives, special events, resources, or expertise for community use or participation.

- Examples include: public access to campus library, public lectures and special events, summer camps, theatre productions, and educational programming at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum and Presidential Library.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM: a type of public service in which community entities identify community needs and develop programs or initiatives that university students, faculty, or staff choose to participate in or otherwise support.

- Examples include: student organization volunteering at a 5k fundraiser for a social issue, staff senate collecting canned goods donations for the mission, faculty invited to speak at a local organization meeting, faculty providing expert witness testimony.

ADDITIONAL TERMS

COMMUNITY: formal and informal groups of people connected by location, interests, or other similarities.

- Examples include: neighborhoods, membership associations, veterans

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING: the process of developing knowledge and skills from direct experience – learning by doing.

- Examples include: study abroad, undergraduate research, internships, community work study

SERVICE-LEARNING: a type of experiential learning that happens outside of the classroom where students use their knowledge and skills to address a community need, issue, or problem. Service-learning activities include learning objectives and structured opportunities for reflection.

- Examples include: Bearkat Service Break, MLK Day of Service, Arbor Day, Welcome Week Service Projects