Approaches to Community Engagement: Loyola University Chicago Graduate School

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Summary of Presentation

- Background on the scholarship of engagement
- LUC Graduate School mission and core values
- Highlight LUC Graduate School initiatives focused on community engagement
- Ongoing challenges in promoting and institutionalizing the scholarship of engagement
Growing Momentum in the Scholarship of (Community) Engagement

- Boyer, 1996: Scholarship of Engagement/Scholarship Reconsidered
- National Review Board for the Scholarship of Engagement
- AASCU: Stepping forward as Stewards of Place
- Committee on Institutional Cooperation’s Committee on Engagement.
- Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching’s Community Engagement Classification.
Defining community engagement

….. “collaboration between higher education institutions 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”

Source: Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching
Loyola University and Graduate School Mission and Core Values

- Expanding knowledge in the service of humanity
- Community engagement, social justice and values based leadership
- An overarching theme in the graduate school’s assessment of learning outcomes.
  
  “apply principles of social justice to the larger community.”
Loyola, Chicago and the Community of Rogers Park

- 1,900 Graduate Students across 3 campuses
- 26 PhD programs, 44 master’s programs
- 600 graduate faculty
Loyola, Chicago and the Community of Rogers Park
Map of Chicago’s Community Areas

- Rogers Park
  - 64,000 people
  - 32% White
  - 30% Black
  - 28% Hispanic

- The Loop/downtown WTC campus

- Maywood/Medical campus

- Lake Michigan
Graduate School Initiatives aimed at fostering Community Engagement

- Developing fellowship programs to promote and support community engagement
  - Community Stewards Fellowship Program
Graduate School Initiatives aimed at fostering Community Engagement

- Targeting foundations that support community service.
  - Albert Schweitzer Fellowships
Graduate School Initiatives aimed at fostering Community Engagement

- Collaborating with University Centers/Units to connect students with communities and community-based organizations.
  - Center for Urban Research and Learning
  - Center for Urban Environmental Research and Policy
  - Center for the Human Rights of Children
Graduate School Initiatives aimed at fostering Community Engagement

- Other Collaborations:
  - English Department’s Community Literacy Program.
  - Center for Experiential Learning:
    - Graduate Student Service Forum
    - Community-based Federal Work Study Program.
Graduate School Initiatives aimed at fostering Community Engagement

- Partnership with Advancement Office to secure funding for community-based initiatives:
  - Preparing phonathon scripts for annual gift fund
  - Establishing targeted endowments.
Ongoing Challenges in Promoting and Institutionalizing Community Engagement

- Institutionalizing reward and incentive structures, including revising promotion and tenure policies
- Complexities involved in developing community/academic partnerships
- The “Hierarchical Dilemma”
  - Valuing discovery over other forms of scholarly activity
  - Valuing federal funding over other forms of funding
  - Valuing top tier journals over applied journals