



# Carnegie Community Engagement Classification



Community engagement describes collaboration between institutions of higher education 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.

The **purpose** of community engagement is the partnership of college and university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors **to enrich** scholarship, research and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.

## What

The Community Engagement Classification recognizes higher education's commitment to community engagement. The classification is not an award. It is an evidence-based documentation of institutional practice to be used in a process of self-assessment and quality improvement. In this way, it is similar to an accreditation process of self-study. The documentation is reviewed by a National Review Panel to determine whether the institution qualifies for recognition as a community engaged institution. (Swearer Center) The documentation process is extensive and requires time and resources on the part of an institution to meet the requirements (compact.org).

## Why

As a Land-Grant institution, community engagement is at the center of WVU's mission. Additionally, we know that active and engaged learning is a retention tool for our students. The process of applying for the classification allows us to be intentional and collaborative in our efforts to strengthen the campus-community relationship.

Our designation allows us to intentionally recruit community engaged faculty, staff and students to continue to enhance our WVU values. This recognition provides more visibility to the community engaged scholarship happening at WVU and highlights our commitment to practice the work we are guided to do through our mission and dedication to our state.

## How

Collective assessment and documentation is an ongoing process that will allow WVU to deepen our understanding of the engagement currently happening across our institution. This process is being led by a cross-campus steering committee of volunteers involved in engaged scholarship. Work groups will take on the task of collecting information for divided areas of the application in order to highlight the response that best fit the objectives.

The 2020 re-application seeks to discover the institutionalized transformational community engagement efforts that have advanced since our original designation in 2010.

More: [kwood@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:kwood@mail.wvu.edu) or  
<http://communityengagementdata.wvu.edu>

### Application Timeline

July 2018: Received Application

August -Sept 2018: Formed Steering Committee

November 15, 2018: Data Inventory need request

Dec – March 2019: Review Period

April 2019: Application Deadline

January 2020: Announcement of Classification

July 2019: WVU Community Engagement Framework