

Why Community-Engaged Learning at ETSU? Why Now?

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ETSU's Definition Community-Engaged Learning

Community-engaged learning describes the intentional integration of academic coursework and experiential activities that develop and maintain reciprocal external partnerships and enhance student outcomes.

Another Definition

“...a form of experiential education in which students engage in activities that address human and community needs together with structured opportunities for reflection designed to achieve desired learning outcomes.”

--B. Jacoby, *Service-Learning Essentials*, 2015

Essential Element of CEL Critical Reflection

Makes meaning out of a purposeful combination of experiences and academic content.

The process of analyzing, reconsidering, and questioning one's experiences within a broad context of issues and content knowledge.

Essential Element of CEL Reciprocity

Views students and communities in terms of both assets and needs.

Oriented toward change and building the capacity of all participants.

Designed with the community to meet needs identified by the community.

Education increases the human capital stock of individuals, improves their productivity, leads to increases in economic productivity, and contributes to the general betterment of society.

–Noland & Smith, 2019

What Employers Want from Graduates

- **Ability to work effectively in teams**
- **Critical thinking skills**
- **Application of knowledge and skills in real-world settings**
- **Complex problem-solving skills**

What Employers Want from Graduates

- **Ethical judgment and reasoning**
- **Ability to communicate through writing**
- **Ability to work with people from different cultural backgrounds**
- **Civic skills/civic engagement.**

–AAC&U, 2022

Through CEL, students...

- can develop *all* the skills employers want
- are more likely to pursue pro-social careers
- are more likely to remain in city, region, or state
- develop motivation and agency to make a better region and world

CEL Creates a Spark



CEL Lights a Fire



CEL Fans the Flames



CEL Has Regional Impact



Project-Based CEL Consultation Model



CEL as Advocacy



Economic Development

A sustained, community-based effort to improve both the local economy and the quality of life by building the area's capacity to adapt to change and to embrace opportunities for growth.

Economic Development

- Is about doing *with* rather than doing *for*.
- Knowledge flow is multidimensional.
- All are empowered to effect change.



Starting with 1 CEL course...



A College Changed Its Name



University of Maryland Capital Regional Medical Center



Goals of ETSU Community-Engaged Learning:

- **Expand student involvement in CEL opportunities across the undergraduate experience.**
- **Describe the impact of student involvement in CEL on student outcomes for various student populations.**
- **Provide infrastructure and resources for students, faculty and staff, and community partners to support long-term success.**

What it Takes to Sustain CEL at ETSU

- 1. Mission, priorities, and strategic plan**
- 2. Curriculum infusion**
- 3. Authentic, sustained community partnerships**
- 4. Faculty support and reward**
- 5. Administrative structure and resource allocation**
- 6. Culture of evidence**

New Day's Lyric

**“Even if we never get back to normal
Someday we can venture beyond it,
To leave the known and take the first steps.
So let us not return to what was normal,
But reach toward what is next.”**

–Amanda Gorman, 2022

Thank you!

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