

Working Together for an Inclusive, Sustainable Greater Hamilton

Overview of the Afternoon

On June 10th, 2016, approximately ninety individuals representing over twenty different community groups, all McMaster faculties, and various other campus units, gathered to engage in discussion on how best to move forward together for an inclusive and sustainable greater Hamilton. During the event, the Network for Community-Campus Partnerships presented a vision for community engagement at McMaster, which was developed through a collaborative strategic planning process that took place throughout the past year, and facilitated roundtable discussions.

The afternoon began with the launch of the 5-year strategic plan for community engagement, followed by roundtable discussions on the objectives, membership, and priorities of three proposed working groups whose purpose is to focus on and support one of community-engaged research, education, or service. The second half of the afternoon began with an introduction of a new approach to collaborative problem-solving for specific themes and issues, which were the subject of the second session of roundtable discussions. A visual summary of the proposed issues and themes has been developed.

Summary of Priorities for Working Groups

The following chart summarizes the immediate, short-term, and long-term priorities for each Working Group that were proposed.

Working Group	<i>Immediate Priorities (by September 2016)</i>	<i>Short-term Priorities (by June 2017)</i>	<i>Long-term (over the next 5 years)</i>
Community-Engaged Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm the membership of the Working Group • Establish a communications plan • Improve clarity regarding the timeline, scope and objectives • Establish an evaluation protocol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve information-sharing practices • Improve understanding of the current state of community-engaged education • Build capacity • Facilitate partnership development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track, measure, report on, and learn from outcomes and impacts • Improve coordination of opportunities, projects, and partners • Plan for the future
Community-Engaged Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect exemplars and share best practices • Facilitate partnership-building • Encourage and facilitate student involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacity • Establish a clear communication strategy • Establish projects • Facilitate partnership-building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue building support for community-engaged research • Evaluate and track community-engaged research

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve clarity on the foundations of the group • Establish accountability structures • Communicate and coordinate partnerships and projects • Discuss with community partners on research ideas and participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess impacts and outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate outcomes • Facilitate partnership development • Maintain support for existing initiatives and develop new projects
Community-Engaged Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to information • Communicate best practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate involvement with community-engaged service • Reach mutual understanding of expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and prepare for the future

Next Steps

These are the next steps of working together for an inclusive and sustainable Greater Hamilton:

- **Continue conversations** on the theme-based collaborative groups and start pursuing partnerships and projects that align with the broad themes
- **Act on the proposed immediate priorities** for each of the Working Groups and begin working together to support community-engaged education, research, and service
- **Establish a clear communications strategy** to update community and campus partners, as well as other interested individuals, on the outcomes of this event and the strategic plan launch
- **Engage senior leadership in conversation** about the next steps of the strategic plan and the outcomes of this event