

## **Community-Engaged Education Working Group – Summary of Priorities**

These priorities were proposed during roundtable discussions on the CE Education Working Group and are sorted by timeframe.

### **Immediate Priorities (by September 2016)**

- **Confirm the membership** of the Working Group, ensuring diversity by including a variety of students, residents, community organizations, and University staff and faculty. A selection committee should be established for this task and also for the purpose of identifying the major players who are missing from the discussion.
- **Establish a communications plan** that will make the language of Community Engagement more accessible to those who are unfamiliar with this work and will establish a common platform for information sharing. This plan should also include strategies for reaching out to the community to find experiential projects for students.
- **Improve clarity** regarding the timeline, scope, and objectives of the Working Group. Clear definitions of the key terms of this Working Group and a detailed work plan should also be communicated widely.
- **Establish an evaluation protocol** to measure the progress of achieving the objectives of this Working Group and to set the metrics for success.

### **Short-term Priorities (by June 2017)**

- **Improve information-sharing practices** across campus and with the community regarding existing community engagement initiatives, opportunities provided by the University, the Community Engagement Course and minor, and stories of success. Ensuring transparency with campus and community will deepen long-term commitment to and support for community engagement, as well as encourage faculties to pursue future opportunities. Information-sharing via online portals and the database should be made more accessible and widely-known as well.
- **Improve understanding of the current state of community-engaged education** by identifying what is already happening, the barriers that still exist and the means to address them, and stories about courses with community engagement elements across all faculties and sharing this information widely.
- **Build capacity** for community engagement through obtaining seed funding to encourage pilot interdisciplinary community-campus projects, developing training programs and support resources, and developing measures of success for projects, students, and impacts.
- **Facilitate partnership development** through establishing a central point of contact to learn of and connect with campus and community partners, establishing support infrastructure and incentives to encourage faculty participation, and figuring out

tangible ways through which students can become engaged with their communities. Communicating partnership opportunities to all partners will be key, including presenting to City subcommittees.

### **Long-term Priorities (over next 5 years)**

- **Track, measure, report on, and learn from outcomes and impacts** of community-campus partnerships and projects, student involvement, the Foundations of Community Engagement course, and the Community Engagement Minor. Communicate these outcomes in multiple formats and celebrate stories of success.
- **Improve coordination** of community-engaged opportunities, projects, and partners through developing a central University hub or office to avoid duplication of efforts.
- **Plan for the future of community engagement** by establishing a credit system for students engaging in co-curricular community activities, facilitating an improved understanding of and access to City Hall committees and minutes, and advocating for fast transit from McMaster to downtown Hamilton.