Community-Engaged Scholarship

Community-engaged scholarship (CES), for the Morgridge Center for Public Service, refers to teaching and research activities that are performed in equitable, mutually beneficial collaboration with community organizations and community members. As defined by the Engaged Scholarship Advisory Committee to the Connecticut Campus Compact (2012), “Community engaged scholarship can be found in teaching, research, and/or service. It is academically relevant work that simultaneously addresses disciplinary concerns and fulfills campus and community objectives. It involves sharing authority with community partners in the development of goals and approaches, as well as the conduct of work and its dissemination. It should involve critical review by discipline-specific peers, community partners, and the public.”

Community can mean a group of people who share commonalities, including:

- Geographic proximity
- Shared interests
- Faith
- Identity
- Profession
- Affiliation

Scholarship can mean teaching, research, or service activities. In CES, that means collaboratively engaging university and community partners in reciprocal, mutually beneficial relationships that value the knowledge of each partner. In these relationships, power and resources are equitably shared. Any products that are developed should be useful to the community, as well as the university.

The type of Engagement can include both community-engaged research, often called community-based research (CBR) or participatory action research (PAR), as well as CBL. Such research works for social action, social change, and social justice. Typically, university researchers work collaboratively alongside community members to address community-identified research questions. In these partnerships, community members can act as co-researchers, sharing their own knowledge and expertise. CBR projects should increase the capacity of the community organization and produce useful products outside of (and often in addition to) academic articles or publications, such as public talks, legislative testimony, and popular press publications.
CES also includes community-based learning (CBL), which is sometimes known as service learning. CBL combines course content, community-engaged work that is desired by and of value to the community, and critical reflection to provide enhanced student learning and community benefit using the lens of both academic rigor and equitable practice.

Community-engaged scholarship is not:

- Research about a community
- A one-way flow of information from university to community
- Serving on a committee or board on or off campus
- Volunteering
- Contractual work outside the university with no connection to your discipline

For more information on community-engaged scholarship, please visit:

https://ccph.memberclicks.net/community-engaged-scholarship
https://engage.msu.edu/about/overview/common-types-of-community-engaged-scholarship-reported-by-faculty
http://www.usf.edu/engagement/faculty/community-engaged-scholarship-toolkit.aspx#anchor4