

An underwater photograph of a vibrant coral reef. The scene is filled with various types of coral, including large, flat, fan-like corals and smaller, branching corals. Several yellow-striped snappers are swimming in the foreground. In the background, a scuba diver is visible, swimming horizontally. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering through from above.

Community Engagement at Florida Atlantic University

2017-18 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Background	4
Key Accomplishments	5
Anchor Mission Initiative	11
Status of FAU's CE Application	12
Selected Goals for 2018-2019	13
Acknowledgments	14

Introduction

The history and practice of community engagement at Florida Atlantic University is based on a distributed network of students, faculty, and staff from many divisions, departments, and units working with community partners to achieve mutual goals.

This is the second annual report of the community engagement activities at FAU as guided by the Community Engagement Task Force (CETF). This report provides an update on the progress made toward the goals set for 2017-18 as well as information that we hope you'll find useful as we all seek to foster awareness and deepen FAU's commitment to engagement within our respective divisions, departments, and units.

We look forward to continue working with you and supporting your initiatives as you build stronger, mutually-beneficial engagement with our communities.



Ron Nyhan, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Office of Community Engagement

Background

Florida Atlantic University has a long history of providing engaged learning, research, and service to its local and regional communities. Engagement is embedded and highlighted in the University's mission, vision, and strategic goals and is a strong and fundamental component of FAU's strategic platforms upon which the institution's pillars of excellence are built.

In 2016, FAU's President, John W. Kelly established the Community Engagement Task Force (CETF). The CETF was charged with defining, identifying, and documenting the breadth and depth of FAU's engagement activities in the community as well as institutionalizing and strengthening the culture of strategic engagement within the University. The Task Force was also charged with preparing the University for a successful application for the Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designation in 2020.

In June 2018, President Kelly established the Office of Community Engagement to oversee the work of the CETF and coordinate and manage data collection of the community engagement activities at the University.

According to President Kelly, "together, we teach and enrich students through experiential learning opportunities, foster life-altering research to solve problems in our communities, and provide necessary services through faculty expertise, student involvement, as well as student and staff volunteerism – all by strategically partnering with our many stakeholders."

Key Accomplishments for 2017-18

Over the past year, the Community Engagement Task Force has continued to strengthen a university-wide infrastructure to recognize, support, enhance, and document engagement activities and opportunities for students, faculty, and staff. Through collaborations with divisions, departments, and colleges across the University, the Task Force is increasing awareness of community-based activities and establishing a broader foundation to support those activities.

Three areas of particular accomplishment are:

- Academic Service Learning Courses
- Professional Development and Awards
- Data Collection

Academic Service Learning Courses

The most significant accomplishment of this period was the result of a collaboration between the Academic and Student Affairs divisions. Through the hard work of the College Liaisons and the support of the Weppner Center for LEAD and Service-Learning, we were able to increase the number of academic service learning courses from 74 to 201.

Academic Service Learning (ASL) courses require students to work with community partners to apply their leadership skills in problem-solving projects developed in conjunction with those partners. This ensures that students, while gaining hands-on experience in their field, are also contributing to and engaging with the community by using their skills to support local development. Academic service learning designation also ensures that students are reflecting on how their knowledge, acquired in the classroom, plays a role in solving societal problems, and how they can be active community members.

Academic Service Learning Courses (cont.)

The increase in ASL courses offerings represents a *win-win-win* situation for the institution, our students, and most importantly, our community. While FAU will continue to be recognized as a valued community partner, our students are gaining practical experiences and networking opportunities. Furthermore, our communities are becoming empowered to participate in their development through expertise sharing and knowledge co-creation.

During the 2017-2018 Academic Year, students enrolled in ASL courses supported local cities, veterans, public schools, hospitals, and nonprofit organizations among others. Their efforts produced strategic plans, technical reports, curriculum plans, trainings, community assets, workshops, and policy changes. With the support of 89 faculty members, FAU students contributed 243,147 hours to our local economy for a valued impact of more than \$5.6 million.



Group of Civil Engineering students at American Legion Post 304 in Dania Beach

Professional Development and Awards

Professional Development

The role of faculty, staff, and students is central to the mission of FAU. It is through their work and commitment that we are able to broaden our community-based activities and the impact of FAU in our area. Therefore, we have offered financial support for our faculty, staff, and students to attend some of the most recognized conferences in the field of service learning, community-engaged research, and civic engagement.

The following is a list of select conferences FAU had a presence in within the past academic year:

- 2017 Florida Campus Compact Professional Development Conference
- 2017 Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities Annual Conference
- Campus Compact 2018 National Conference
- Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities' 2018 CEO-CICEP Joint Summer Meeting
- The 2018 International Association for Research on Service Learning and Community Engagement Annual Conference

Kate Magro, PBA Director of Workshop, and Katie Burke, FAU Weppner Center for LEAD & Service-Learning Assistant Dean, at the Campus Compact National Conference



Dr. Barbara Holland, Community Engagement Scholar, and Aloha Balza, FAU CE coordinator, at the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities Annual Conference

Awards

The Presidential Awards for Engaged Teaching, Research, and Service generated 42 applications in three categories of engaged faculty activities, which represented an increase of more than 200% from the previous year. The Community Engagement Liaison Committee was in charge of evaluating the applicants' summary of their work, letters of support from their deans and community partners, and selecting semi-finalists to the UFS Honors and Awards Committee. Final candidates selected by the UFS were forwarded to the Provost for his approval. President Kelly presented the three awards at the 2018 Honors Convocation on April 18. The recognition included a crystal award, a \$2000 cash incentive, and a \$1500 grant designed to support the recipient's continued professional development in community-based activities.

The faculty award recipients for AY2017-18 were: Dr. Fred Bloetscher, for engaged teaching; Dr. Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, for engaged research; and Dr. Sameer Hinduja, for engaged service. These three faculty members impacted FAU's local community, our region, and the country as a whole with the work they developed with their students and/or partners. A summary of their work can be found on the Community Engagement website under the Faculty tab. We encourage you to review and celebrate their achievements.



From left to right: Dr. Fred Bloetscher, Dr. Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, and Dr. Sameer Hinduja

Awards (cont.)

The Office of Community Engagement also recognized students for their community-focused work. A total of five awards were presented to students from a variety of programs at three different events.

The Wave Engaged Research Award was presented in April 2018 to students Natafia Perez and Sydney Yu for their interdisciplinary project titled “Learning, Enrichment and Activities Pals” developed in partnership with the Palm Beach Children’s Hospital.

During the Undergraduate Research Symposium in the spring, students Johanna Eusse, Katherine Perez, and Kayla Sloan received 1st and 2nd place respectively for their engaged research projects.

On March 20th, at the Annual GPSA Research Day, graduate students Tasso Cocoves and Vincenza Iadevaia were presented with Engaged Research 1st and 2nd place awards for their community-focused projects. While Tasso’s work involved the study of a local ecosystem, Vincenza’s project engaged an immigrant community in South Florida.

Additionally, the Office of Community Engagement granted more than \$5000 to students working on engaged research under the supervision of faculty members from five of our colleges. The work these students developed in partnership with local agencies promises long-lasting positive impact for our communities.



Sydney Yu, Electrical Engineering student, and Natafia Perez, Neuroscience and Behavior student, at the 2018 Wave Competition Awards Ceremony

Data Collection

The Office of Community Engagement continues to identify, collect, and report data documenting the University's engagement efforts and outcomes. This data, generated by units across all FAU campuses, will assist us in developing a better story to share with our stakeholders and in completing the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification application.

Our data collection efforts this year have been focused on identifying partnerships and measuring their impact on the community. After working with the different colleges and units, we have compiled a list of more than 500 active partnerships between faculty, staff, and/or students and the community. These partnerships represent co-created work in the areas of research, teaching, and service. More importantly, they represent the number of times FAU has been in direct contact with members of our community and worked with them in addressing immediate needs.

The research resulting from these partnerships tackled issues in the areas of health, urban planning, social work, and economic development, to name a few. We are continuing to work on the development of an assessment tool for our partners to better calculate impact and quality of the partnerships.

Dr. Joanna Drowos, College of Medicine, and Ksiten Azzam, M4 student, worked in partnership with faculty from University of Pennsylvania and Lakeside Medical Center to develop a training program for HIV Prevention



Anchor Mission Initiative

In 2018, Florida Atlantic University was selected as an inaugural member of the Higher Education Anchor Mission Initiative, a national collaboration designed to develop and share new strategies for deploying higher education’s intellectual and place-based resources to enhance the economic and social well-being of the communities they serve.

The Higher Education Anchor Mission Initiative is a joint project of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) and The Democracy Collaborative (TDC), a national research institute developing strategies for a more democratic economy supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

“FAU’s participation in the Higher Education Anchor Mission Initiative will help deepen our existing commitment as a community partner and strengthen our community engagement efforts,” said FAU President John Kelly. FAU is one of 31 member institutions and is currently the only Florida institution participating in the Higher Education Anchor Mission Initiative.

With public trust and funding for higher education declining, imagine the potential impact if hiring, purchasing, and investing power was better aligned with academic research to equitably benefit the local economies our universities call home. It is in the interests of higher education institutions and the public for us to align our economic assets, as well as our educational mission, behind community improvement.

The Higher Education
ANCHOR MISSION INITIATIVE



Status of FAU's CE Application

The Office of Community Engagement's coordinated efforts to gather data from the various university departments has resulted in high quantities of raw data. This data is being used to develop the narratives needed to answer the questions of the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification application.

The 2020 application framework was released in May 2018 and, as expected, it closely mirrors the 2015 application's questions. The format has slightly changed bringing the total number of questions to 128. The following summary represents the current status of the application, keeping in mind that we are working on the application daily and these numbers are constantly changing.

Completed	72
Partially answered	54
Not yet addressed	2

Our first complete draft of the application is expected to be available by the beginning of the fall semester so the various units represented on the Community Engagement Task Force can provide feedback and revisions.



Selected Goals for 2018-2019

- Create an Assessment Committee within the CETF to evaluate how community engagement activities address student success, learning outcomes, and curricula development.
- Construct a database of community partners and administer a survey to help evaluate their level of satisfaction and perception on reciprocity.
- Conduct or coordinate community workshops and recognition events for partners, faculty, staff, and students.
- Continue to develop and administer our Community Perceptions survey to better understand how our neighbors value our contributions to the community.
- Complete the Carnegie application for the community engagement designation.



Acknowledgements

The work reported in this document is the result of the coordinated efforts of many members of our FAU family. We would like to recognize two groups that have been essential to the Community Engagement Initiative at our institution:

The Community Engagement Task Force:

- Mr. James Capp - Assistant Provost, Academic Operations and Planning
- Dr. Jo Smith - Director, Research Development
- Mr. Luis Perez - Assistant VP, Research Communications
- Ms. Jane Gerlica - Program Manager, Financial Affairs
- Ms. Nori Carter - Director, Campus Life Davie
- Ms. Margaret Goodlin - Programmer/System Analyst, IEA
- Ms. Meghan DeFord - Assistant VP, Institutional Advancement
- Dr. Andrea Guzman Oliver - Associate VP, Student Outreach & Diversity
- Ms. Constance Scott - Director, Local Relations, Governmental Affairs
- Ms. Brittany Sullivan - Media Relations Manager, Public Affairs

The Community Engagement College Liaison Committee:

- Dr. Christopher Beetle - Associate Professor, College of Science
- Dr. William Bosshardt - Professor, College of Business
- Dr. Susannah Brown - Associate Professor, College of Education
- Dr. Rhonda Goodman - Associate Professor, College of Nursing
- Dr. Wendy Hinshaw - Associate Professor, College of Arts and Letters
- Mr. Aaron Hackman, Associate Director, Academic Service Learning
- Dr. Leslie Leip - Associate Professor and Program Coordinator, College for Design and Social Inquiry
- Dr. Dan Meeroff - Associate Chair & Professor, College of Engineering and Computer Science
- Dr. Christopher Strain - Professor, Honors College