



Community-Campus
Partnerships for Health

The Commission on Community-Engaged Scholarship in the Health Professions:

Advancing a promotion and tenure system to realize the promise of
community-based participatory research and service learning

Sarena D. Seifer and Jen Kauper-Brown
APHA Annual Meeting ~ November 8, 2004

*This work is supported by a grant from
the WK Kellogg Foundation*



Our Mission

To foster partnerships between communities and educational institutions that build on each other's strengths and develop their roles as change agents for improving health profession education, civic responsibility and the overall health of communities



Challenges of Community-Engaged Scholars

- “If we want faculty to be involved in communities, but reward them for other activities, we are our own worst enemy.”
- “Research support and manuscript generation is the name of the game...community-based anything takes time, length, and breadth.”
- “Without leadership from the top, inclusion in mission statements and budget priorities, and faculty incentives, community efforts cannot succeed.”



Scholarship in the Health Professions

“Many untenured faculty find they must chose between doing the work that would contribute to career advancement and doing the work of the institution in linking with communities and educating students.”

Ron Richards, Building Partnerships: Educating Health Professionals for the Communities they Serve, 1996

“Applied scholarly research, teaching and service need clearly-articulated scholarship criteria. More appropriate and inclusive forms of documentation and peer review standards should be established. Sustained recognition and support for the applied interdisciplinary scholarship of academic public health practice should be institutionalized both within each school and the university.”

Association of Schools of Public Health, 1999



Scholarship in the Health Professions

“Publication in peer-reviewed journals is the typical end point in the mind of many researchers. For a results-oriented philanthropy, this is not enough.”

*James R Knickman and Steven A. Schroeder
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2000*

“Participatory approach at the front-end of the research pipeline is the best assurance of relevance and utilization of the research at the other end of the pipeline.”

*Lawrence Green,
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*



Scholarship in the Health Professions

- “Federal funders of research and academic institutions should recognize and reward faculty scholarship related to public health practice research”
- “Academic institutions should develop criteria for recognizing and rewarding faculty scholarship related to service activities that strengthen public health practice”
- “Schools of public health should “provide increased academic recognition and reward for policy-related activities.”

Institute of Medicine, 2002



Current Reality

- Most frequently cited barrier is the risk associated with trying to achieve promotion and tenure
- Often viewed as service and perceived as an inferior activity, rather than being acknowledged as genuine scholarship
- Most academic institutions confer tenure and promote faculty based primarily on the quantity and caliber of peer-reviewed publications



Commission's Charge

To provide national leadership for creating a more supportive culture and reward system for health professional faculty involved in community-engaged scholarship

To develop and disseminate a set of tools that faculty and health professional schools can use to advance community-engaged scholarship



Commission Members

Alex Allen, Isles, Inc., Trenton, NJ

Larry Green, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

Barbara Brandt, University of Minnesota Academic Health Center

Jessie Gruman, Center for the Advancement of Health, DC

Marshall Chin, University of Chicago School of Medicine, IL

Susan Gust, Phillips Neighborhood Healthy Housing Collaborative,
Minneapolis, MN

Jay Chunn, National Center for Health Behavioral Change Morgan State
University, Baltimore, MD

Laura Leviton, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Princeton, NJ

Amy Driscoll, California State University-Monterey Bay

Alonzo Plough, Public Health- Seattle & King County, Seattle, WA

Eugenia Eng, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill



Commission Members

Shobha Srinivasan, National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park, NC

Clyde Evans, Association of Academic Health Centers, DC

Susan Tortolero, Prevention Research Center, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Elmer Freeman, Center for Community Health Education Research and Service, Inc, Boston, MA

Pat Wahl, University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine, Seattle, WA

Charles Glassick, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Spartanburg, SC

Terri Wright, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Battle Creek, MI



Community-Engaged Scholarship (CES)

“*Scholarship* is teaching, discovery, integration, application and engagement that has clear goals, adequate preparation, appropriate methods, significant results, effective presentation, and reflective critique that is rigorous and peer-reviewed. *Community-engaged* scholarship is scholarship that involves the faculty member in a mutually beneficial partnership with the community. Community-engaged scholarship can be transdisciplinary and often integrates some combination of multiple forms of scholarship.”

*Commission on Community-Engaged Scholarship
in the Health Professions, 2004*



Community-Engaged Scholarship

Academic public health practice is the applied, interdisciplinary pursuit of scholarship in the field of public health:

practice-based research - discovers additional knowledge and generates new science in the practice of public health at the boundaries where fields converge

practice-based teaching - informs both the academician and practitioner as co-learners, and enhances student competence through field placements, internships and practice-based curricula



Community-Engaged Scholarship

Academic public health practice is the applied, interdisciplinary pursuit of scholarship in the field of public health:

Practice-based service - applies professional knowledge that results from one's role as a faculty member as consultant, professional expert or technical advisor to the university community, the public health practice community or professional practice organizations.



Challenges in Current Review, Promotion & Tenure (RPT) System

- Time involved in developing partnerships
- Collaborative and interdisciplinary nature
- Expectations of funding agencies
- Funding and journal hierarchy
- Diverse dissemination pathways and products
- Diverse measures of quality, productivity and impact
- Lack of peer review
- Limited opportunities for involvement of community partners



Recommendations: National Associations of Health Professional Schools

- Adopt and promote a definition of scholarship that explicitly includes CES
- Support member schools that recognize and reward CES
- Advocate for increased extramural support for CES



Recommendations: Health Professional Schools

- Adopt and promote a definition of scholarship that includes and values CES
- Adopt RPT policies that reflect this new definition of scholarship
- Ensure that community partners are meaningfully involved in the RPT process



Recommendations: Health Professional Schools

- Educate RPT committee members about CES and prepare them to understand and apply the RPT guidelines in the review of community-engaged faculty
- Invest in the recruitment and retention of community-engaged faculty
- Advocate for increased extramural support for CES
- Take a leadership role to initiate or further campus-wide examination of the connection between their institution's mission and CES



Additional Recommendations

Recognizing that many products of CES are not currently peer-reviewed, a national board should be established to facilitate a peer review process



Future Directions

- Release of Commission report and recommendations
- Collaborative of health professional schools that seek to reform their RPT systems
- Faculty toolkit
- National network of senior community-engaged scholars in the health professions
 - mentors
 - national references
 - peer reviewers
 - cases for faculty development



Community-Campus
Partnerships for Health

Resources

www.ccph.info

Community-engaged scholarship

<http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/scholarship.html>

Commission

<http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/kellogg3.html>

Toolkit

<http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/2002fellows-calleson.html>

CES listserv

<https://mailman1.u.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/comm-engagedscholarship>



Community-Campus
Partnerships for Health

Contact information

Sarena D. Seifer

sarena@u.washington.edu

Jen Kauper-Brown

jenbr@u.washington.edu