

****For Engaged Institutions Initiative (EII) team member distribution only****

Reducing Health Disparities Through Partnerships: A Community-University Retreat

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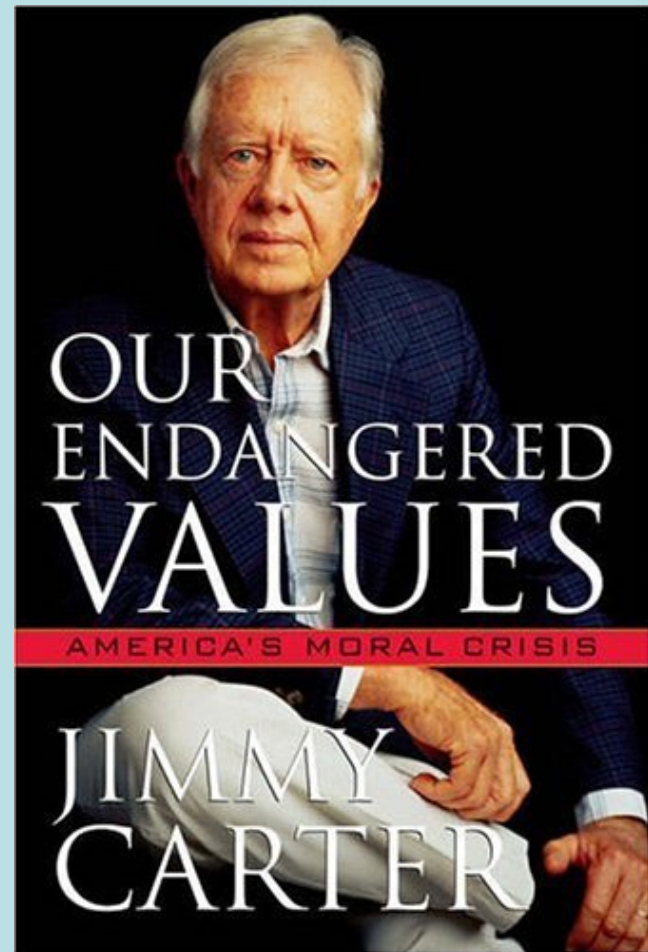
Boston University School of Public Health





Kellogg 75th Anniversary

**Racial and Ethnic
Health Disparities:
Schools of Public
Health Respond as
Engaged Institutions**





The Engaged Institution

- Engaged institutions are those that invest in lasting relationships with communities and are viewed by those communities as key partners in building a healthy environment.
- These relationships influence, shape and promote the success of both the institution and the community.



Characteristics of Vibrant Partnerships Between Universities and Communities

1. See their present and future well-being as inextricably linked.
2. Collaboratively plan and design mutually beneficial programs and outcomes.
3. Engage in reciprocal learning.
4. Respect the history, culture, knowledge, and wisdom of the other.
5. Create structures that promote open communication and equity with one another.
6. Have high expectations for their performance and involvement with each other.
7. Value and promote diversity.
8. Regularly conduct a joint assessment of their partnership and report results.

CCPH Engaged Institutions



- University of Arizona
- University of Arkansas
- Boston University
- University of Florida
- University of Hawaii
- Morgan State University
- University of Nebraska
- University of Oregon
- University of North Carolina
- San Jose State University
- University of South Carolina
- Virginia Commonwealth University

Principles of Partnership



- Partnerships form to serve a specific purpose and may take on new goals over time.
- Partners have agreed upon mission, values, goals, measurable outcomes and accountability for the partnership.
- The relationship between partners is characterized by mutual trust, respect, genuineness, and commitment.
- The partnership builds upon identified strengths and assets, but also works to address needs and increase capacity of all partners.
- The partnership balances power among partners and enables resources among partners to be shared.

Principles of Partnership



- Partners make clear and open communication an ongoing priority by striving to understand each other's needs and self-interests, and developing a common language.
- Principles and processes for the partnership are established with the input and agreement of all partners, especially for decision-making and conflict resolution.
- There is feedback among all stakeholders in the partnership, with the goal of continuously improving the partnership and its outcomes.
- Partners share the benefits of the partnership's accomplishments.
- Partnerships can dissolve and need to plan a process for closure.

What Do We Know about Community-Higher Education Partnerships?



1. The #, range and scope of “partnerships” and funding for “partnerships” is diverse and growing.
2. There are tangible benefits to communities, students, faculty and higher education institutions.
3. There is a plethora of national policy statements and organizations; dominated by higher education perspectives.
4. The predominant model is not a partnership, is initiated by the campus and is framed by campus priorities.
5. There are ongoing challenges, but recognized success factors.
6. Communities are realizing their power to change the situation, as are funding organizations.

University – Community Expectations!!



- Scholarly publications
- Funded research grants
- Professional supervision of applied grants
- Supervision of student research
- University/collegiate service
- Membership in professional associations
- Manuals & policy papers
- Funded service projects
- Project development and evaluation
- Social action research and strategic planning
- Civic and community participation
- Professional and leadership development



The Purposes of Today's Retreat

- Introduce you to others who share your vision of community-university partnerships as a way to reduce health disparities
- Understand the challenges in doing so from the other person's perspective
- Identify successful strategies that others have employed
- Facilitate development of new partnerships
- Provide support and networking for current partnerships



Activities at Today's Retreat

- Examples of Successful Partnerships (Oral Presentations and Posters)
- Morning Breakout Session #1: Barriers and solutions from the community perspective
- Morning Breakout Session #2: Barriers and solutions from the academic perspective
- Afternoon Panel Discussion: Removing the barriers and next steps

What are the barriers?

- Health promotion can makes the community look bad
- Funding is often tenuous
- Academics and community members may have different priorities
- It is often sometimes necessary to take resources from wherever you can, and this can divert you from your mission



Successful Partnerships

- Mutual Respect
- Mutual Benefit
- Shared Vision
- Shared Decision-Making
- Leadership at Various Levels in Multiple Arenas
- Work Across Boundaries

Glades Health Initiative, Inc.





Partners in Health and Housing Prevention Research Center

Mission: To engage public housing residents in community centered research programs and activities that improve their health and well-being.



Resident Health Advocates celebrating completion of Training Program, 2006



How can community/academic partnerships address racial and ethnic health disparities?

- Role of community-based participatory research
- Central nature of community mobilization and advocacy
- Increasing social capital and capacity of the community
- Evidence based public health practice
- Partnership intermediary organizations



Our Presenters

(In Order of Appearance)

- **Ella Greene-Moton**, Chair, Board of Directors of CCPH, Community-Based Public Health Caucus of APHA and National Community Committee of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Prevention Research Centers
- **Geni Eng**, Professor, University of North Carolina School of Public Health
- **Harold Cox**, Associate Dean for Practice, BU School of Public Health
- **Willie Mae Bennett-Bradley**, Director, Committee for Boston Public Housing