Sustainable partnerships in service-learning at the University of Washington Carlson Center

Rachel Vaughn, Carlson Leadership & Public Service Center
Carlson Leadership & Public Service Center

- The Carlson Center is committed to engaging undergraduates in understanding, building and improving our communities.
- The focus of the Carlson Center has been on service learning, particularly working with faculty and students to develop meaningful academic connections with the community.
- Tremendous growth in service-learning in the past 2 years, doubling the number of students engaged in service.

www.depts.washington.edu/leader
Carlson Center focus

- Centralized office housed within the Center for Experiential Learning in Undergraduate Academic Affairs
- We support faculty campus-wide who teach courses with a service-learning component
- We support community partners engaged in service-learning with UW courses
- We aim to support students in a variety of ways—seeking to increase student civic engagement and leadership opportunities
Carlson Center staff and sustainable partnerships

- Carlson Center staff work with faculty to integrate community work into their course(s)
- Carlson Center staff invite community partners to host service learning students
- Carlson Center staff “match” community organizations (and their service learning positions) with particular courses
- Carlson Center staff register students, handle risk forms, troubleshoot problems, coordinate evaluations
Guiding values and principles

- Community-Campus Partnerships for Health Principles of Partnership
- Asset Based Community Development
- The practice of reciprocity
CCPH 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.
- 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.

http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/principles.html#principles
The Asset-Based Community Development Institute (ABCD) is at the center of a large and growing movement that considers local assets as the primary building blocks of sustainable community development. Building on the skills of local residents, the power of local associations, and the supportive functions of local institutions, asset-based community development draws upon existing community strengths to build stronger, more sustainable communities for the future.

www.abcdinstitute.org
Reciprocity (the definition)

- What words come to mind when you hear “reciprocity?”
- How do you define reciprocity?
- What is one example of reciprocity (personal, professional, academic)?
Reciprocity Definitions

- “a mutual or cooperative interchange of favors or privileges, especially the exchange of rights or privileges of trade between individuals or groups as in the transfer of goods or services between two or more individuals or groups. Also see balanced, generalized, and negative reciprocity.” (Anthropology syllabi from Oregon State University)
- a relation of mutual dependence or action or influence (Princeton, wordnetweb)
- mutual exchange of commercial or other privileges (Princeton, wordnetweb)
- Webster’s Dictionary, “the quality or state of being reciprocal: mutual dependence, action, or influence”
Key factors for sustainability

- Consistency (both in values and practice)
- Reliability
- Documentation of practices
- Transparency
- Wide variety of models developed based on curricular goals/learning objectives and partners’ articulated strengths and needs