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**UAA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO THE PROVOST**

**February 10, 2017**

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Submitted by:

Christina McDowell, UAA Community Engagement Council Chair  
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## Introduction

The UAA Community Engagement Council is submitting this report outlining the work completed by the Council since its inception in November 2014, including a summary update on current tasks. Additionally, recommendations are provided based on UAA's 2015 Carnegie Foundation Community Engaged Classification and the expectation for continuous assessment and improvement as an engaged institution. UAA's application for the next designation has been extended to 2025 with the option to submit in 2023.

Upon completion of the 2015 Carnegie Engaged Classification application, the UAA Carnegie Task Force requested permanent UAA council designation (i.e., UAA Community Engagement Council) under the Office of Academic Affairs; a course release for the Chair of the Council; and funding for Faculty Fellow positions. Official Council status was granted; however, the other requests were denied. The UAA Community Engagement Council faculty chair agreed to serve without a course release.

Our November 2014 report addressed our progress on the original charge of the Community Engagement Council (formerly Task Force) set by Provost Elisha Baker and concluded:

*There is a foundation for engagement at UAA that is securely in place . . . We have a Center that supports the development of curricular engagement, language for 'public square' in the UAA vision and mission statements, and good examples of curricular engagement, engaged research and engaged creative activity. We have faculty advocates dispersed across the curriculum, communities and students that demonstrate interest, and we have pockets of 'deep' engagement with community (Report to the Provost, November 2014).*

The 2014 report also noted factors to be addressed:

- Increase awareness about community engagement and CCEL and knowledge of available resources.
- Expand faculty leadership and resources for engaged scholarship.
- Increase capacity for being a best practice model for community engagement.
- Monitor the implementation of Faculty Evaluation Guidelines for the inclusion of community engagement and engaged scholarship.

## Update of Work Plan: 2015-2016

The following is a summary of the Community Engaged Council's work and outcomes during the period November 2014 – June 2016

1. Transformed the faculty task force on renewal of the Carnegie designation as an engaged university into a standing inter-campus faculty council working to support and expand the impact of community engagement across the communities of UAA's south-central campuses.
2. Worked with the UAA Faculty Senate to develop and implement a course designation system in Banner that has facilitated collecting the community engagement work of faculty and increased the Center's capacity for data collection and assessment.
3. Participated in Accreditation Planning and began work on a Partnership ePortfolio for Community Engagement/Public Square for UAA that will be complete by June 2017.
4. Developed and completed an assessment project to evaluate the effectiveness of the Center's course designation system and assessed faculty needs to expand participation in community

- engaged teaching. Completed comprehensive assessment plan for identifying and evaluating the impact of community engagement on student success and learning, faculty attitudes toward teaching and service, institutional reputation and philanthropic activity, and external agency capacity and effectiveness.
5. Completed review of software systems for auditing, documenting, and highlighting community engagement work across UAA and the community campuses; identified the most functional program and began work with developers on a plan for UAA that would support both the Carnegie application and the work of the UAA Advancement office. In the absence of funding for the best program available, Collaboratory, we are working on creating a solution through Digication.
  6. Collaborated with the UAA Office of Advancement to develop strategies for identifying and cultivating sources of sustainable external funding. This has resulted in Providence Health Services funding CCEL for approximately \$20,000 over the past three years for community-engaged projects with a health-related focus.
  7. Collaborated with General Council and the Office of Risk Management to develop a comprehensive risk management plan.

## **Moving Forward: 2016-2017**

In AY 16/17, the Community Engagement Council began the year with a new Faculty Chair, Dr. Christina L. McDowell, Assistant Professor in the Management & Marketing Department, College of Business and Public Policy. A list of all members of the Community Engaged Council is included at the end of this report. For the coming year, our intention is to address the following inquiries:

- 1. What are the larger organizational structures, policies and practices that we could target/impact that would be transformative for the university?**
  - Engage Faculty on the Council to act as ambassadors and community-engaged liaisons in each of their colleges.
  - Develop stronger connections with diversity initiatives and student affairs offices for an evidence-based retention strategy through increasing student participation with community engagement. The high impact practice of service-learning is shown to give “the biggest bump” to under-served and most at-risk populations, including aiding in retention, yet students are often not directed to these courses.
  - Explore NSSE results to highlight the opportunities for engagement and connection.
- 2. How can we make more visible the value that we place as a university on community engagement and increase visibility to students?**
  - Consider recommendations for a mandatory engaged course for graduation and/or a freshman experience course that highlights community engagement with direct or indirect service with the community.
  - Consider a “Public Scholars” designation that would be available to any major.
  - Opportunities for internships locally (Mayor’s office, Municipal Assembly, local non-profits), statewide (State Legislative opportunities), and nationally (The Washington Center, National Legislative opportunities) should be “bundled” and displayed in information sessions for students each semester with clear pathways to participate.
  - Develop a communication plan for Civic Engagement (CEL) courses and the Certificate. Students are excited about these courses and the Certificate when they take them, yet it has low visibility for increasing participation.
- 3. What are the best ways to continue to provide faculty development in community-engaged curriculum and community-engaged research and creative activity?**

- Pedagogy and practice will be enhanced through an annual faculty intensive, 1-1 visits to 5 faculty per semester, and a January workshop.
- Connection to Partnerships will be enhanced this year with an event at the Anchorage Museum with faculty and community partners together scheduled Thursday, Feb. 23.
- Engaged scholarship will be enhanced through a writer's retreat and a learning community.

Thank you for your continued support for UAA as an Engaged University.

Respectfully Submitted,

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#### **2016-17 UAA Community Engagement Council Membership**

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