

Scholarship of Engagement Consensus Statement
Developed by students and instructor in EDUC 8348
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WHAT:

A scholarship of engagement is a collaborative, bi-directional endeavor that works toward a negotiated goal shared by both researcher and participants. Construction of both the goal and the research process must be shared by the investigators and the community. Ownership of the project must be distributed between researchers and participants. The outcome of the project must be valuable or meaningful to both the academic knowledge base as well as to the participants.

Additional notes from small group discussions:

- A scholarship of engagement provides an opportunity for addressing community and research needs using community assistance and feedback, and allows the researcher to learn about the needs of a community. Can have community generated questions, or be initiated by a researcher, but must have a collaborative nature at the heart of the project.
- Research must provide something useful and have a direct impact for participants and community, while continuing to advance academic knowledge. Collaboration, co-construction, and co-generation of goals and processes.
- Collaborative endeavor with shared goals.
- Negotiated situation, the needs of researcher as well as goals of the community are considered. Research must foster a community of support, where the community is able to approach researcher with a need or goal, research can be researcher generated or community generated.
- Not looking for participants to buy into a goal, but negotiating and achieving a shared interest.
- Co-construction of goals, processes, and questions.

WHY:

- To advance knowledge/ best practices
- To gain local knowledge
- To engage community members
- Eliminates idea of researchers as elitist

- Create policy change
- Create applied research knowledge
- Solving community problems and addressing community needs while also adding to academic knowledge
- Increased relevance, practicality, and generalizability
- Put local issues in context
- Apply our current knowledge
- Educational institutions can become community researchers
- Empower communities

HOW:

- Researcher as a member of the organization and gaining investment, community and researcher co-own the product; all participants have a collective investment.
- Multiple disciplines must be involved
- Researcher must be responsive to participants, and be willing to follow as well as lead.
- Product must be meaningful and useful to participants as well as researchers.
- Goals and processes must be co-constructed by researcher and participants