

# Benefits of Community-Engaged Learning and Research

## Students

- **Enhanced Learning, Academic Outcomes:** Deepens understanding of subject matter and complexity of problems; problem solving and analysis skills; critical thinking; understanding of public relevance of discipline and ability to apply content to real-world problems; cultivates curiosity
- **Personal Development:** Deepened sense of identity and self-concept; higher self-esteem; more highly internalized moral commitments; self-efficacy
- **Social Development:** Enhances communication, leadership, and problem-solving skills; develops empathy and understanding of others; promotes collaboration skills and ability to work with others; reduces stereotypes and facilitates cross-cultural understanding
- **Student Success:** More positive attitudes toward school and learning; stronger faculty relationships; more likely to graduate; greater satisfaction with courses and their learning; greater satisfaction with college; more likely to become donors
- **Civic Development:** Greater interest in and commitment to their community and the public good; stronger belief that they can make a difference, improved social responsibility, citizenship skills; greater involvement in the community post-graduation
- **Career Development:** Supports discernment of career path; opportunity to connect with field professionals; community-engaged project and internship experiences open doors for early-career professionals

## Faculty

- Enriched classroom experience, new dimensions to class discussions
- Increases student and faculty classroom engagement and learning
- New avenues for research and publication
- Stronger investment and interest in one's research
- Opportunities for networking and community-building with likeminded peers across disciplines
- Cultivate relationships with community organizations that may open opportunities for other collaborations
- Provide opportunities to be more involved in and informed about one's community
- Boost course enrollment, attracting highly motivated and engaged students

## College

- Enhanced, engaging curriculum
- Strengthens the culture of campus/community engagement through cultivating student leaders that have "ripple effects" in all their spheres of influence
- Breaks down the barriers between town and gown, leading to improved communication and greater collaboration between the two
- Through encouraging students to engage with diverse communities, students develops skills to cultivate inclusive and equitable communities on and off campus.
- Supports student retention and success

## Community

- Invests the assets of higher education - knowledge, research, and creative methods of academic disciplines - into the common good
- Channels the energies and capacities of college students, faculty, and staff to contribute to the community
- Encouraging students to commit to sustained, ongoing engagement throughout their college experience and lives
- Challenging students to approach community work in increasingly thoughtful and deliberate ways, developing students' capacity to engage
- Help direct student engagement to meet community-driven needs and priorities
- Provides learning opportunities to community members