Best Practices of Community Partnership-Building

- Engage in long-term relationship building and sustained commitments to partnerships, recognizing that sustainability is necessary to impact complex real-world challenges.
- Honor the validity of both academic and community knowledge and seek to teach and learn both ways of knowing.
- Center investment and maintenance of relationships rooted in trust, authenticity, and honest, ongoing communication and feedback.
- Ensure work is inclusive of and accessible to diverse communities.
- Strengthen existing capacity in the organization, and build on the assets of higher education - the knowledge, research methods, and creative methods of academic disciplines.
- Attend to inequities between communities and higher education institutions, sharing resources and using interpersonal strategies to avoid reinforcing power dynamics.
- Share decision-making and meaning-making in all phase of the collaboration.
- Clearly and explicitly identify goals and expectations, and hold all stakeholders accountable to specified intended impacts.
- Ensure the partnership is mutually beneficial, balancing student learning and community impact.
- Address community-identified needs, as communities are best equipped to identify their own challenges and priorities.

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