

Appendix H

Declaration of the Community University Research and Service Partners

As Community University Research and Service Partners, we:

- agree that the creation, sharing, and application of knowledge are fundamental pursuits of our daily lives;
- accept broad responsibility to use our knowledge to improve the quality of life in our communities, to address social inequities, and to promote mutual understanding;
- commit ourselves to responding to community needs by seeking new ways to apply our knowledge through engaged university and community teaching and research.

Our partnerships will:

- educate students to be informed and effective citizens and capable future professionals;
- recognize and build upon the diverse experiences of community members, faculty, staff, and students, including underserved and underrepresented groups of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities;
- combine research-based knowledge with community-based wisdom to develop practical applications toward solving social problems;
- seek creative interdisciplinary partnerships that are mutually beneficial and meet the highest standards of the academy and the community.

To honor the spirit of this declaration, we intend to:

- strive to understand, develop, and follow best practices in university community partnerships;
- share potential research and teaching projects and final products with the Partnership;
- hold semi-annual Partnership meetings to exchange ideas about community university projects, needs, and interests;
- engage with Partnership colleagues to address stated community needs, assist with faculty and student projects to fulfill course requirements, internships, independent study projects, service opportunities, and research projects;
- collect data, report and assess the measurable impacts resulting from partnerships;
- seek collaborative grant opportunities and offer in-kind support when appropriate;
- communicate with Partnership coordinators about university community needs, partnering opportunities, products from partnerships, and challenges;
- revisit the purpose, goals, and membership of the Partnership annually;

By signing this, we agree:

- to endorse the Strategic Plan Interim Progress Report: Community-University Service, Learning, and Research Partnerships, dated November 2007;
- to be listed as part of the Community University Research and Service Partnership (previously the Engaged Scholars' Work Group), a work group co-hosted by the Charlottesville/Albemarle Commission on Children and Families and the University of Virginia Office of Public Service and Outreach;
- that we are not bound or obligated to any legal or financial relationships.