



## PARTNERSHIP TIPS: WORKING WITH COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Partnerships between colleges, universities, schools and community agencies can have a positive impact on all parties involved. Too often relationships are strained by assumptions made by both sides. However, if both sides collaborate to work towards the common goal of community improvement, great strides can be made. Remember Colleges and universities are their own little communities in a way. They are all different and they all have a number of forces exerting pressure on them from within, as well as from the outside. Some colleges may have a history of community service and collaboration, others may encourage, but not support work off campus. The administration, faculty, and student organizations may work really well together or there may be some conflict between different groups. This makes it extremely important to involve the appropriate stakeholders in the planning process to be sure no one is undermining the process. Additionally it is a good idea to learn the history or relationship between these different groups at a school, college, or university so you know if groups generally work well together or if the dynamic will be a challenge. This may be a good time to reevaluate the scope and goals of the partnership.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR CONNECTIONS WITH COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Because each campus has its own institutional culture, it can be a challenge to get the pulse on what's happening and with whom to connect. Here are some suggestions:

**The Campus Newspaper:** Pick up a copy or two and find out what's happening on campus. Are there any logical connections between student concerns and what your agency is doing? What groups are represented and/or visible and is there potential for making a connection with them?

**Course Offerings:** Each term a list of the next term's courses is provided. Course catalogues should be available as well. Admissions, registrar, and dean's offices are just a few examples of where to go to get this information. Skim through and see if there are any courses which would make a logical link between what material is to be covered and what your agency is doing. Contacting professors can be helpful, particularly for setting up internships, service-learning components, and recommendations of students who may hold similar interests.

**Athletic Programs:** NCAA is encouraging their athletes to get involved in service.

**Campus Ministries:** Because of the connection between service and spirituality, you may find information here about service activities on campus and the historical significance of service in different faiths.

**On-Line Services:** Most campuses are utilizing the Web to highlight everything from campus events to individual departments. If you have access to the web, most campuses can be found at [http://www.name\\_of\\_institutio n.edu](http://www.name_of_institutio n.edu). Once there, specific links may be easy to determine.

**Development/University Relations/Alumni Relations:** Because these offices tend to work with a broad spectrum of the campus, they may know how you can best connect. They may not know of the exact person, but they can usually steer you in a good direction.

**Campus Directory:** Each campus provides a campus directory, usually at such places as the information center/desk, library, and individual departments. Skimming through the list of individuals and departments may yield prospects for whom to contact.

**TV/Radio:** Many campuses run their own TV & radio stations. This can be a great place to hear about what is happening on campus. It can also be a vehicle through which students can learn about your agency and opportunities to volunteer in the community.

**Community Service Officer/Office of Service-Learning:** As the trend of students interested in community service continues to rise, many campuses are creating a central office through which the projects occur. If there is such an office, the people there would be your best bet for knowing how to most effectively establish a partnership.

**Student Employment Office:** Increasingly work-study is being used as an opportunity to connect students with community organizations. There may be some cost involved in getting a work-study student placed at your organization.

## SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY AND ON-LINE RESOURCES

### **National Campus Compact [www.compact.org](http://www.compact.org)**

“Campus Compact is a coalition of college and university presidents committed to helping students develop the values and skills of citizenship through participation in public and community service. It is the only national higher education organization whose primary purpose is to support campus-based public and community service.”

-Campus Compact Mission Statement

### **National Society for Experiential Education**

**[www.nsee.org](http://www.nsee.org)**

This nonprofit membership association of educators, business and community leaders seeks to provide resources for the development and improvement of experiential education programs.

### **Campus Outreach Opportunity League**

**[www.cool2serve.org](http://www.cool2serve.org)**

This organization works to engage college students in community service. They hold an annual conference and have many resources for involving college students in service.

### **Campus Compact National Center for Community Colleges**

**<http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/academic/compact/>**

The site contains information on awards, conferences, resources and programs for community colleges involvement with community organizations.

### **Expanding Boundaries: Serving and Learning.**

Corporation for National Service (1996)

Although this publication is intended for higher education audiences, there are two articles that may be useful to agencies working with higher education institutions. “The Power of Community Partnerships” provides information about a specific program and general advice and “Finding Partners in Business: How to Make the Contact” walks you through the steps of forming a partnership with a local business or a large corporation. A second volume *Expanding Boundaries: Building Civic Responsibility within Higher Education* also includes articles on the role of agencies in service-learning.

### **101 Ideas for Combining Service and Learning [www.fiu.edu/~time4chg/Library/ideas.html](http://www.fiu.edu/~time4chg/Library/ideas.html)**

Ideas for service projects that go with different course offerings. A good place if you are having trouble thinking of a fit between your organization and college courses

### **Four Things Faculty Should Know [www.fiu.edu/~time4chg/Library/fourthings.html](http://www.fiu.edu/~time4chg/Library/fourthings.html)**

This piece will help prepare you to start conversations with faculty members about service and learning.

### **K-H Partnership Tool Kit <http://www.compactnh.org/KHPartnerships.pdf>**

New Hampshire Campus Compact

This resource focuses on building effective collaborations between schools and colleges. Describes elements of effective partnership as well as developing goals and awareness.

### **Campus-Community Collaborations: Examples and Resources for Community Colleges**

Campus Compact National Center for Community College (1996)

This guide outlines examples of community college partnership with K-12, social agencies, four-year institutions, business, and national service. Includes an extensive bibliography on collaborations and examines models from over a dozen community colleges.

## WORKING WITH COLLEGE STUDENTS

- Schedules will change every semester & be aware of school vacations
- Promote volunteer opportunities to students
- Host single day service projects, especially if the college hosts a service day or service fair
- Take advantage of on campus events that showcase activities and clubs, especially at the beginning of the semester
- Consider why a student would want to volunteer for promotion, what's in it for them?
- Consider why a student is volunteering for retention
- Ask students how they would like to be involved.
- Ask committed volunteers for ideas to connect with the campus community
- Be sure students know who to contact if they cannot attend a volunteer appointment