

Social Innovation through University- Community Engagement

Paper Presentation for the
Network of Social Work Management

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Overview

- How and Why University of Pittsburgh evolved its community-engagement work – Social Innovation
- Understand opportunities and challenges for building community collaboration
- Practices and lessons learned on inter-disciplinary collaboration at campus and community levels
- Q & A

Evolving Social Innovation through Community Collaboration

- From Conflict to Collaboration – Pitt and its Oakland Neighborhood...or... the 800lbs Gorilla....
- Early Collaboration – River Communities Study
- COPC – Community Outreach Partnership Center
- Senate Community Relations Committee
- Academically-Based Community Engagement Committee
- Community Engagement Centers Initiative
- From a University in the City to a University of the City – Strengthening Communities is now a pillar

Community Collaboration

- Mobilizing University Resources to Address Community-Identified Issues
- Cultural Humility & Orientation to the Community
- Trust Building – internally and externally
- CEC Community Advisory Boards
- Collaboration – Internal and Community Advisory Boards
- Economic Engagement – Buy, Build, Hire

Interdisciplinary & Inter-professional Collaboration – internal work

- Strategic Pillars – Plan for Pitt
 - Strengthening Communities
 - Advancing Teaching and Research Excellence
 - Building Sustaining Infrastructure
- Internal Advisory Committee – the players
- Academically-Based Community Engagement and Senate Community Relations Committees
- University Service Mission to Enhance Teaching and Research Mission

Homewood CEC – Bridging the Past to the Future





SCHOOL OF
Social Work

University
of Pittsburgh

Programs and Resources

<https://cec.pitt.edu/homewood/programs/>

Lessons and Best Practices

- It takes time to build trust – be in it for the long haul
- Campus is the toughest community to organize
- Building the internal dialogue and cultivating the external relationships - it takes work and time
- Mobilizing and formalizing the collaborations – managing dynamic tensions in any collaboration
- Cultivating the Collective Will
- Making and Sustaining the investment
- Q & A tsssw@pitt.edu