



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

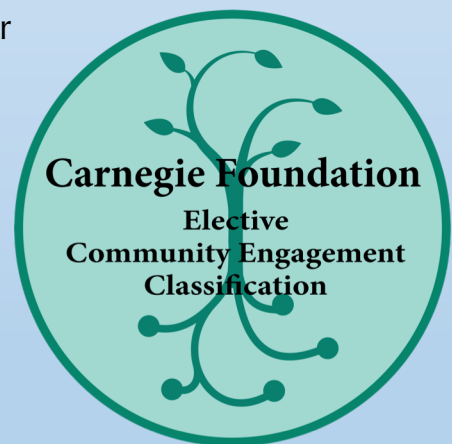
2021-22 Annual Report

Introduction

The Office of Community Engagement (OCE) focused on planning for the future and providing additional support to faculty and students working with community partners given the continuous challenges brought by the limitations of face-to-face interactions with external stakeholders. This report encompasses our major accomplishments for Academic Year 2021-2022 (AY21-22). We are proud to remain on a growing path, demonstrated by the increase in reported engagement activities and the persistence of long lasting partnerships with our local community.

As we embark on the process of applying for the Carnegie Foundation's Re-Classification for Community Engagement, we feel confident that our progress in establishing structures, policies, and systemic mechanisms are evidence of FAU's commitment to addressing current and pressing social issues. We remain dedicated to utilizing our collective resources to the benefit of all of our stakeholders.

We will continue to focus on expanding our commitment to the communities that surround us by working collaboratively with the different university divisions and promoting the engaged work of our faculty, students and staff.



The Office of Community Engagement

Background

FAU has a long history of engaged learning, research, and service across our local and regional communities. Engagement is embedded and highlighted in the University's mission, vision, and strategic goals and is a strong and fundamental component of FAU's strategic platforms upon which the institution's pillars of excellence are built.

Community engagement at FAU is based on a distributed network of students, faculty, and staff from many divisions, departments, and units working with community partners to achieve mutual goals. As envisioned at FAU, this network model combines several aspects of distributed leadership and faculty governance. This model recognizes the existing commitment and accomplishments of each of the University's divisions and the benefits of continued shared leadership and responsibility toward sustaining and strengthening the University's community engagement culture.

In 2018, President Kelly established the OCE and charged it with defining, identifying, and documenting the breadth and depth of FAU's engagement activities at the university-wide level. As part of Academic Affairs, and in true engagement fashion, we work collaboratively with multiple representatives from the divisions of Student Affairs, Administrative Affairs, Research, and Public Affairs to support faculty, staff, students and community partners.



Florida Atlantic University

Key Accomplishments for 2021-2022

The OCE continued to work diligently on establishing anchor strategies that will further position our school as a driving economic force in South Florida. While we are taking on new initiatives, we also remain focused on our main goals of increasing community-based activities and enhancing the infrastructure that sustains these activities, including assessment and evaluation mechanisms. These mechanisms assist in measuring the impact each of our community engagement projects has had on the development and scholarship of our faculty, the professional and personal growth of our staff, and the academic and real life experiences of our students.

This report highlights our accomplishments during this academic year by presenting them within the following categories:

- Engagement
- Awards and Incentives
- Academic Service Learning Data
- Anchor Mission Learning Network



Engagement

Our office works collaboratively with faculty and other university units to support community projects and other engagement opportunities. During AY21-22, the OCE funded five community engaged projects initiated by faculty and staff members from the Colleges of Education, Medicine and Science. These projects, which are guided by the principles of mutual benefit and reciprocity, address some of the very pressing issues our communities are currently facing including mental health, gentrification, climate change and population health.

Furthermore, we continued to support Student Affairs through the process of developing a Civic Action Plan for the University. Below, please find additional details on these engagement projects.

- Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Fatherhood Initiative

This projects supports the Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies (HMHB) Coalition of Palm Beach County, which serves the communities of Belle Glade and Greenacres. The mission of this coalition is to recognize the important role of father involvement and support. HMHB intends to create a fatherhood initiative based on research. The education and programming resources developed as part of this initiative addresses community gaps in fatherhood support. Local fathers receive opportunities for support and guidance similar to mothers yet specific to their role and challenges. This research further supports FAU's aspiration of igniting passion in our students to become socially responsible and engaged leaders. It also seeks to inspire students from the healthcare field to more intimately learn about the community FAU seeks to support through research and innovative change. This project is based on a student collaboration that organically provides a mentorship relationship which will be impactful to both mentor and mentee. An additional project under this initiative was also funded by our office. The second project seeks to uncover the impact the supportive resources of the organization have on the served populations and how theses services contribute toward the goal of positively affecting health equity.

- Urban Stories Festival

For the third year in a row, our office has had the privilege to fund this project under the leadership of Mrs. Serena Hoermann, the Assistant Director of the Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the College of Science. This year, the main event of the series was a Climate Gentrification Workshop that took place on March 27, 2022. This five-hour event aimed at centering the voices of an ethnic enclave facing displacement pressures. During the first part, participants processed experiences during a two-hour poetry workshop consisting of an introduction to the topic, meditation, and exercises to produce written work reflecting participants' lived experiences. The second half of the event consisted of a meal and performances to engage the community as a focus group.



- Community Engaged Education Research Apprenticeship (CEERA)

The OCE also supported the CEERA project, which is designed to prepare emerging scholars to engage in community work as a central aspect of their research agenda. These emerging scholars do that through empirical inquiry, careful study, and community building. The CEERA project also focuses on cultivating partnerships with local communities for the purpose of improving schooling. According to Dr. Melanie Acosta, from the College of Education, the foundational principle guiding CEERA comes from Hapi (Nile) Valley civilizations as represented by an Adrinka symbol from the Akan people of Ghana, West Africa. The symbol, Nea Ope Se Obedi Hene (see below) means “He who wants to be king in the future must first learn to serve”. Kingship in this regard means one who will be the voice of, and represent the best interests of the people. This project has the potential to expand throughout the college as well as university wide.



- Using Photovoice to Promote Self-Compassion in Culturally Diverse Mothers During COVID-19

This project is based on a partnership with the Faulk Center for Counseling, a local non-profit community counseling agency with the mission of promoting emotional well-being through a variety of free and low-cost programs for counseling, therapy, and support. Through this collaboration, mental health services are provided by graduate students pursuing master's degrees or doctoral degrees in psychology, social work or mental health counseling, as well as clinical volunteers who hold advanced degrees in a mental health field. All graduate students and volunteers are trained and supervised by the Center's staff of licensed psychologists. FAU's clinical mental health students work at the Faulk Center in order to receive well rounded and quality supervision as they begin to work with clients in their practicum and internship experiences. This collaborative project benefits those in need of mental health services. The knowledge and information gained through this project can enhance treatment for mothers who are struggling with mental health concerns during the time COVID-19 has been present as a threat.

- Action Plan for Civic Engagement

This year, the OCE also worked with Ms. Lindsey Goldstein, the Assistant Director of the Weppner Center for Civic Engagement and Service-Learning, in the development of a Democratic Engagement Action Plan. The plan was submitted as part of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge (ALL IN) and the Voter Friendly Campus (VFC) initiative.

Thanks to the leadership of Ms. Goldstein, FAU received a seal for having a Highly Established Action Plan for Civic Engagement!



Awards and Incentives

Each year the OCE rewards engaged faculty and students for their commitment and dedication towards our communities through their work. These rewards include monetary, trophy and certificate awards. During AY21-22, our office distributed more than \$10k in monetary awards to distinguished faculty and students.

- **Presidential Awards for Outstanding Faculty-Led Community Engagement**

Every year, three faculty members go through a competitive selection process and are recognized for outstanding engagement in the areas of Teaching, Research, and Service. The faculty applications for these prestigious awards are reviewed by the Community Engagement Liaison Committee and the UFS Honors and Awards Committee. These two committees go through numerous applications of remarkable faculty who work collaboratively with our communities. The selected awardees are then presented this recognition by the FAU President during the Annual Honors Convocation in the Spring. The awardees receive a crystal award, a \$2,000 cash incentive, and a \$1,500 grant designed to support their continued professional development. This year's awardees were:

Dr. Nicole Baganz - Presidential Award for Outstanding Service

Dr. Baganz was recognized for inspiring young minds toward careers in STEM and eliminating the forces that restrict opportunities for understanding and treating those who suffer from mental illness. She is also responsible for the creation of the Advancing STEM Community Engagement through Neuroscience Discovery (ASCEND) program. She further helped secure a \$780,000 gift from the Stiles-Nicholson Foundation, initiating a four-year program that engages middle schoolers with multimedia and hands-on activities in neuroscience.

Dr. Heather Howard - Presidential Award for Outstanding Engaged Research/Scholarship

Dr. Howard's engaged research focuses on utilizing the data collection and analysis methods guided by the communities she studies. Her primary area of research is centered on trauma-informed care for women, particularly substance use and health care from an empowerment lens. She is also engaged in a community participatory action research project in which women who were involved in the dependency system were empowered to share their reflections through PhotoVoice, a visual research method that allows participants to share their reflections through photos and images that represent their experiences.

Dr. Timothy Steigenga - Presidential Award for Outstanding Engaged Teaching

Dr. Steigenga has pioneered the development of social entrepreneurship, a rapidly developing field that uses traditional methods of entrepreneurship to solve social problems through his Honors Social Entrepreneurship courses. In his courses, students are not only taught the fundamentals of social entrepreneurship, borrowing best practices from the for-profit sector to apply to nonprofit work, but also are encouraged to start their own social ventures with 40-page business plans detailing their visions for social change. The students who write the best plans are offered scholarships via the Kenan Social Engagement Program, which provides start-up funding for ventures aimed at making the world a better place.



From left to right: Drs. Nicole L. Baganz, Heather Howard, Timothy J. Steigenga

- Wave Community Engagement Award

In collaboration with the Division of Research (DOR), the OCE supports students through the Wave Competition program. This program challenges our students to put their entrepreneurial skills into practice by submitting and developing innovative ideas targeting societal problems.

This year the OCE, was proud to present the 2022 Wave Award for Engaged Research & Entrepreneurship to the “Engage Florida” team for developing a new approach to solving inequality in scientific outreach. This award is given each year to an engaged team and it comes with a \$1000 scholarship divided equally among team members. This team created a project centered in grassroots efforts run by students and for underserved students to provide equal access to educational opportunities using innovation and representation.

Engage Florida

Students:

Shalakha Bonthu, Jose Delgado, Hibah Hussain, Joseph Lawless, Bilal Mutluguler, Matthew Pacheco and Vineet Reddy

Project:

Reddy and Pacheco co-founded Engage Florida to address two areas: improving undergraduate scientific communication skills and exciting local students about research. The primary aspect of our organization is our seminars that we run in underserved Title 1 schools. The Engage Florida team works with several FAU undergraduates who conduct their own research and are willing to discuss their work with others. These students work in teams to present their research in an accessible way to local schools.

Reflecting on the impact of our own experiences, being exposed early to research, the Engage Florida team realized the importance of exciting students early in their career about research. Traditional scientific outreach organizations fail to excite young students since they focus on teaching them scientific concepts instead of instilling in them the love of scientific discovery. All aspects of our organization are centered on grassroots efforts run to engage our local South Florida community.



Academic Service Learning Data

Allowing our students to serve the community through academic service learning projects continues to be one of our priorities. We seek to increase the number of designated ASL courses each year. During AY21-22, four courses went through the official designation process and now have the ASL attribute. Providing more opportunities for students to take their skills into the community has proved beneficial in increasing the number of reported ASL hours by our students. This year, despite the restrictions presented by the on going presence of COVID-19, the ASL reported hours still increased by 4%. We also experienced an increase in the number of engaged students (31%) and engaged faculty (22%).

Below, please find the total ASL hours reported by each of our academic colleges per semester during AY21-22.

COLLEGES	Summer 21	Fall 21	Spring 22	Total
COLLEGE OF NURSING	768	3,899	1,477	6,144
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE	-	-	1326	1,326
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE	-	388	320	708
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK & CCJ	25160	90,277	88,190	203,627
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & CS	-	11,268	10,760	22,028
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS	4694	18,978	27,542	51,214
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION	-	50,549	41,128	91,677
COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS	250	348	2500	3098
HONORS COLLEGE	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL COLLEGES	30872	175,707	173,242	379,821

Anchor Mission Initiative

Finally, we have continued to work with the Anchor Mission Learning Network on a monthly basis to further develop anchor strategies and strengthen our presence as an anchor institution in the South Florida region.

Goals for 2022-2023

Goal 1. Expand Community Engagement Practices

Our number one priority continuous to be increase the breadth and depth of FAU's engagement with the community. To that end, we continue to support, encourage, and guide faculty, staff, and students to engage in community-based activities.

Targets:

- Attend faculty orientations and assemblies to educate members about opportunities and incentives
- Attend student orientations and other activities to promote ASL courses and participation
- Work with the Division of Research to create an engaged research support group
- Increase number of ASL offerings within core courses

Goal 2. Prepare for the 2026 Carnegie Community Engagement Re-Classification Process

In order to obtain the re-classification status for the Carnegie Foundation's Classification for Community Engagement we need to start working on collecting appropriate data and putting in place strategies that support engagement. This will require alignment of various units around the university.

Targets:

- Establish a Community Engagement Task Force comprised of all major units within FAU
- Create a working group for data collection and application drafting
- Develop policies that support CE within each of the academic colleges
- Create and implement additional CE awards and incentives

Goals for 2022-2023 (cont.)

Goal 3. Develop a Comprehensive Assessment Plan for CE

Assessment is an important part of the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification framework. As such, our office strives to develop an assessment plan that aligns with the framework and meets the classification requirements. We continue to work on improving our current evaluation mechanisms and increasing accessibility and response rates.

Targets:

- Place our revised ASL end of course student survey into a canvas module accessible to all ASL faculty
- Redesign and implement our Community Conversations series to include all FAU campuses
- Work with the University Team for Assurance of Student Learning (TASL) to add ASL student learning outcomes into the assessment database
- Create evaluation criteria for all CE awards and incentives

Goal 4. Increase Engagement with Local Government Networks

Working with our local government agencies provide additional opportunities for partnerships and engagement with the larger community. Our office will seek to establish direct communication lines with our local officials.

Targets:

- Partner with the Director of Local Relations to streamline government interactions
- Support FAU presentations at Governmental Agencies and venues
- Create an OCE presence within various Local Government Networks

Acknowledgements

The Office of Community Engagement works collaboratively with numerous members of our FAU family. Because of their invaluable contributions and support we are able to accomplish many of our goals every year. We appreciate them all, and are particularly thankful for the following individuals:

- Christopher Biggs - Director, Academic Finance & Administration
- Nori Carter - Director, Students Services & Campus Life, Davie
- Donna Chamely-Wiik - Associate Dean, Undergraduate Research and Prestigious Fellowships
- Michael Davis - Assistant Director, Compensation & Benefits
- Melody Thelwell - Director of Procurement
- Regina Thompson - Strategic and Economic Initiatives Manager
- Jennie Soberon - Associate Director, OURI
- Felipe Vargas - Coordinator, Academic Operations and Planning

The Community Engagement College Liaison Committee

- Christopher Beetle - Associate Professor, College of Science
- Frederick Bloetscher - Associate Dean and Professor, College of Engineering & Computer Science
- Susannah Brown - Professor, College of Education
- Jacqueline Fewkes - Professor, Honors College
- Danielle Groton - Assistant Professor, College of Social Work & Criminal Justice
- Aaron Hackman - Associate Director, Academic Service Learning
- Nancy Harris - Visiting Assistant Professor, College of Nursing
- Wendy Hinshaw - Associate Professor, College of Arts & Letters
- Daniel Meeroff - Professor, College of Engineering & Computer Science
- Peter Ricci - Director & Senior Instructor, College of Business
- Alicia Rootes - Interim Director for Diversity & Inclusion, College of Medicine
- Lincoln Sloas - Assistant Professor, College of Social Work & Criminal Justice