



WORKING WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

TUESDAY, APRIL 14TH, 2015 | AZALEA COAST ROOM A

ORGANIZER:

Dr. Jill Waity, *Asst. Professor Sociology and Criminology*

PANELISTS:

Dr. Stephanie Smith, *Director of the Office of Community Engagement and Impact in the College of Health and Human Services*

Dr. Andrea Jones, *Asst. Professor Social Work, College of Health and Human Services*

Jaime Russell, *Assistant Director of Student Leadership and Engagement*

Dr. Antonio Puente, *Professor Psychology Teaching Lab*

Session Notes

- Dr. Smith began presentation with an overview of the Office of Community Engagement and Impact in the College of Health and Human Services. Dr. Smith described how this is a new department and that Dr. Hardy, the Dean of the College, has been a big advocate for the unit. Here is a link to the office: <http://uncw.edu/chhs/engagementpartnerships.html>
 - Dr. Smith shared the following challenges when working with community partners:
 1. Understanding the political environment
 2. Understanding the funding environment
 3. Creating effective faculty and student incentive structures
 - Important to align project with the faculty members goal to achieve tenure.
 - Dr. Puente discussed how he has been involved with/founded the Cape Fear Clinic, a bilingual mental health clinic for the poor and uninsured (<http://www.capefearclinic.org/about-us/overview>)
 - Dr. Jones discusses Asset Based Community Development and showed a video from the Richland Together Let's Connect. Here is the link to the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_YqXXew7cM
 - Dr. Waity discussed the projects that her students have taken part in and how it is important to take the results back to the community partners and that this is a collaborative partnership.
 - Ms. Russell explained the goals of the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement (<http://www.uncw.edu/osle/>) and how her department works to assist students in finding a good match in service opportunities. She also discussed the importance of having service
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activities that have an educational component and the need to assist students with the meaning making process of service.

- After panel presentation, attendees had the opportunity to ask questions:
 1. Advice for new faculty?
 - Get tenure before engaging in a long-term service commitment
 - Be patient in discussions with community partners and creating partnerships
 - When creating service opportunities for students, make sure to clearly state how the project connects with course outcomes and learning objectives
 - Wilmington is a very southern community and it takes time for the locals to realize we are an asset.
 - Faculty need to participate in the social life of the community so that they can gain buy-in from the community and develop networks to build community partnerships.
 2. Do faculty partner with staff for community projects?
 - There isn't a clear infrastructure in place to support this partnership.
 3. Challenges with faculty and community partners?
 - Certain populations of the community have been researched to death and some researchers have not gotten back with them about the results.
 - It's important to communicate these results back with the community.
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