

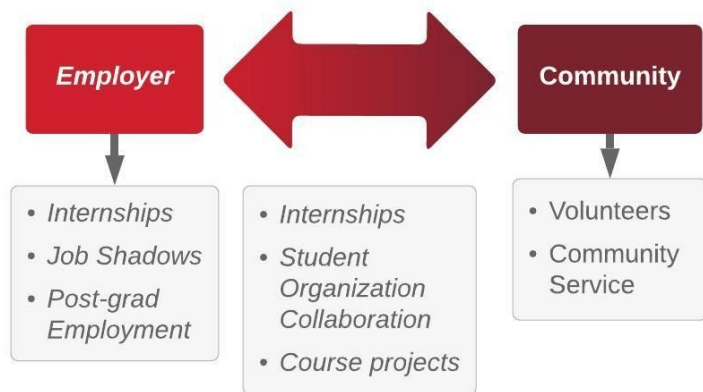


Community Engagement FAQ

What is Community Engagement?

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching defines community engagement as collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.

The Aspire Center has intentionally fused community engagement and employer relations efforts in order to build upon connections and opportunities. For instance, while working with an employer to establish an internship we can blend the conversation and discuss their community engagement initiatives which may open up additional experiences for students, faculty and alumni.



What's the difference between volunteering, philanthropy, community service, community engagement and service learning?

Community Engagement can be thought of as the overarching umbrella for the following terms. For instance, volunteering may be one way to work towards a community engaged campus, but it's not the only option.

Volunteering - An act of an individual or group freely giving time and labor for community service.

Philanthropy - Voluntary giving by an individual or group to promote the common good.

Community Service - The practice of people working on behalf of others or a particular cause, without payment, for their time and services.

Service Learning and Community-Based Learning - An experiential teaching method that combines community service with academic instruction as it focuses on critical, reflective thinking and civic responsibility

How can I incorporate community engagement into my courses?

There are so many ways to create meaningful and mutually beneficial opportunities! Sometimes it's as simple as welcoming community organizations or businesses into your courses to introduce dialogue and open doors for students. You can also choose to do semester-long assignments related to community engagement in which students work with organizations to determine a need.

Do I need to notify The Aspire Center about community engagement experiences?

There is no requirement, however the more we know about potential and/or on-going opportunities, the more we can help coordinate and leverage our relationships. For example, if we are aware of multiple courses and student organizations working with one community organization, we can link the opportunities together to determine the scope of the partnership and potential for collaboration. Reach out to Becky Windberg , Manager of Community and Employer Development (rwindberg@carthage.edu) for assistance.

How do I find community engagement opportunities?

We are working towards a common resource website, but in the meantime connect with The Aspire Center and we can link you to opportunities within our networks. If you come across an organization or business interested in working with Carthage whether it's for community engagement, internships or jobs, please send along this [website](#) so we can connect.

What are some best practices for community engagement projects?

Some great resources can be found through [Campus Compact](#), a coalition of 1,000+ colleges and universities committed to the public purposes of higher education, including examples of syllabi and program models.

[Perceptions of Partnership: A study on nonprofit and higher education collaboration](#) provides great insight on how to create positive and sustainable partnerships.



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