

University of California, Berkeley **Organizational Structures**

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Twenty years ago the University of California, Berkeley (U.C. Berkeley) adopted the groundbreaking American Cultures undergraduate education requirement. What began as a call to develop a graduation requirement in ethnic studies eventually resulted in the American Cultures requirement, a compromise that still resonates across campus in both its victory and its discord. Such history has offered vibrant opportunities for building community-engaged scholarship within the curriculum meeting the requirement, but has also raised concerns over the possible outcomes of such an endeavor. In a moment marked by scant public resources, intensified private investment, and new institutional narratives of diversity, a new initiative, the American Cultures Engaged Scholarship program, a collaboration of the Cal Corps Public Service Center and the American Cultures Center, is questioning how community-engaged partnerships might be positioned within the university's undergraduate curriculum, and to what effect. What are the implications for U.C. Berkeley undergraduate courses, student learning, community partners, scholarship, the American Cultures curriculum, and the university?

American Cultures Engaged Scholarship began in summer 2010. Its first courses, which were founded on a three-semester model of course selection, course development, and course offering, were offered in spring 2011. The program is designed to address major concerns regarding the labor required for and institutional setting of engaged scholarship. This design has four facets at its core, each supported by separate funds and designed to create long-term institutional change: a faculty development program, with faculty given the title of Chancellor's Public Scholar; a graduate student development program, with participants given the title of Chancellor's Public Fellow; a course partnership implementation fund; and a sustainability fund. These components share responsibility for creating institutional change, and provide an infrastructure to stimulate, sustain, and reward engaged scholarship.

To date 13 courses have been offered and four courses are in development; 19 faculty members (Chancellor's Public Scholars) are teaching these courses, and 24 undergraduate and graduate students (Chancellor's Public Fellows) have been selected to support

their development and offering. Each course has worked with at least one community partner; some courses have worked with as many as four.

American Cultures Engaged Scholarship has gained traction and visibility in the campus community, and interest continues to grow. The 12 faculty submissions for the next cohort of courses represent disciplines across the traditional academic departments and the professional schools. Submissions include proposals from the School of Social Welfare and the Department of Economics, neither of which has hosted an American Cultures class in over a decade.

For more information, contact

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