

University of Massachusetts Amherst *Organizational Structures*

John Reiff

From 1999 to 2009, the University of Massachusetts Amherst Office of Community Service Learning was housed in the Honors College, serving both the Honors College and the campus at large. In 2009, the office was divided into two, with campus-wide support for service-learning placed in a new, smaller office under the provost. In 2011, the dean of the Honors College and the new provost agreed to reunite the two offices into one, with the new office (University of Massachusetts Civic Engagement and Service-Learning) now entirely under the provost.

This move provides more resources to support service-learning and civic engagement for students and faculty across the entire campus and to support community partnerships.

- The first-year service-learning residential academic program (IMPACT!) and the two-year service-learning leadership development program (Citizen Scholars Program) will now be available to all students, not just honors students, and more support is available for students across the campus interested in the new Certificate in Civic Engagement and Public Service and the new individualized major in civic engagement.
- Support for faculty members and graduate students is increased, leading to the creation of faculty/graduate student practice groups focusing on engaged teaching, research on service-learning, and community-based participatory research, and to the resumption of the 15-year-old Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program, which was put on hold in 2009. The Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program, in turn, can support the creation of new service-learning courses as part of the restructuring of general education requirements and the creation of new “SophoMORE” residential academic programming.
- Support for community partners is increased, leading, for example, to a reframing of the partnership with the Amherst Regional Public Schools to map and develop opportunities for partnership with the entire system (e.g., transportation, finances, public relations), and

not just as a site for University of Massachusetts Amherst students to work directly with youth.

Opportunities to grow have also been enhanced. For the first time, the new office has been assigned to the portfolio of a campus-wide development officer. With more staff in the office, there is also more opportunity to collaborate with faculty members in any department to seek grant funding that will support new service-learning classes.

These changes have been made without the allocation of new funding.

For more information, contact

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