

## University of Wisconsin–Madison Organizational Structures

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The University of Wisconsin–Madison’s Morgridge Center for Public Service promotes engaged scholarship to the campus and wider community through a variety of initiatives. Its newest development comes from research begun in 2006 in Madison on community perceptions of service-learning. The work resulted in publication of *The Unheard Voices: Community Organizations and Service Learning* (Temple University Press, 2009). The editors continued exploring solutions to issues brought forth by those voices, and collaborated with community partners to create *Community Standards for Service Learning* (<http://comm-org.wisc.edu/sl/files/css4slbrochure.pdf>). Informed by recommendations in those standards, and supported by the vision of its director, the Morgridge Center is now in the second year of piloting a structure called the Community-University Exchange (CUE).

The Community-University Exchange is an engaged learning and research program based on the European “science shop” model, (Tryon & Ross, 2012), which democratizes knowledge and maximizes research efficiency by streamlining interdisciplinary projects based on community-identified priorities. The CUE is designed to broker community needs while supporting faculty research and student learning objectives in a coordinated, cohesive approach. As in any single-disciplinary community-based research, all partners are involved in shaping the projects, and findings are shared with the community and are associated with actionable goals. Initial projects included an initiative on food access, gardening, and healthy eating; research on media bias; a geographic information system mapping project; and student market research on local businesses to meet several place-based stakeholder priorities in an economically challenged area of Madison.

The Community-University Exchange pilot has expanded to include new project areas with more faculty, staff, and students as well as new community partners. It is adding two additional projects in other place-based research and learning.

Other areas of growth include:

- development of additional partnerships on campus to include the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and health fields in community-based research and learning;

- curriculum development for early-career faculty, and graduate teaching assistant workshops on incorporating engaged pedagogies into courses, and on issues related to tenure and promotion, publishing, funding, and institutional review board protocols; and
- the CUE Clinic, which opened in 2012 representing a partnership with a University of Wisconsin–Madison research center, designed for community members to approach the university with research questions or project ideas. By the same token, faculty and graduate teaching assistants will utilize this “brokering” service. The staff of the clinic will help community organizations craft questions in forms reflecting academics’ research interests, and help faculty/research assistants find projects that meet community-identified priorities as areas of real need.

The Engaged Scholarship Graduate Fellows—a group of trained community-based research practitioners under supervision of the Morgridge Center—are coordinating three ongoing community-based research projects using place-based settings in community centers in different parts of Madison. The fellows also staff the CUE Clinic and help develop curriculum for the faculty and teaching assistant seminars. The necessary building blocks are in place to develop a sustainable structure that supports academic research agendas and student learning objectives, while honoring the community’s knowledge, contributions, and particular time constraints.

## Reference

- Tryon, E. & Ross, J. A. (2012). A community-university exchange project modeled after Europe’s science shops. *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*, 16(2), 197–211.
- Stoecker, R. & Tryon, E. (2007) Community Standards for Service-Learning. Retrieved September 5, 2012 from: <http://comm-org.wisc.edu/sl/files/css4slbrochure.pdf>

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