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Outreach & Engagement*

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*Michigan State University*

## ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC AND LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES: COUNCIL ON ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH WHITE PAPER

7 .....The Centrality of Engagement in Higher Education

<i>Hiram E. Fitzgerald</i> <i>Michigan State University</i>	<i>Karen Bruns</i> <i>The Ohio State University</i>
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	<i>Louis Swanson</i> <i>Colorado State University</i>

The centrality of engagement is critical to the success of higher education in the future. Engagement is essential to most effectively achieving the overall purpose of the university, which is focused on the knowledge enterprise. Today's engagement is scholarly, is an aspect of learning and discovery, and enhances society and higher education. Undergirding today's approach to community engagement is the understanding that not all knowledge and expertise resides in the academy, and that both expertise and great learning opportunities in teaching and scholarship also reside in non-academic settings. By recommitting to their societal contract, public and land-grant universities can fulfill their promise as institutions that produce knowledge that benefits society and prepares students for productive citizenship in a democratic society. This new engagement also posits a new framework for scholarship that moves away from emphasizing products to emphasizing impact.

## 2011 NATIONAL OUTREACH SCHOLARSHIP

### REFLECTIVE ESSAYS

33 .....The World Grant Ideal and Engaged Scholarship  
*Hiram E. Fitzgerald and Lou Anna K. Simon*  
*Michigan State University*

Michigan State University President Lou Anna Simon's concept of the world grant ideal is grounded in three core values: quality, inclusiveness, and connectivity. These core values fuel the 21<sup>st</sup>-century imperative to build sustainable global prosperity. They represent an affirmation of the Morrill Act of 1862 in the context of a global society and as a model of university-community collaboration, applicable not only to research-intensive universities but also to higher

education in general as well as to a broad range of societal organizations. In this essay, the authors describe the core features of a world grant ideal, provide examples of how Michigan State University has applied the three core values, and draw attention to critical organizational alignments that must occur in order to support fully engaged higher education institutions.

57..... Sometimes There are No Notes: An Auto Ethnographic Essay of a Collaboration at the Engagement Interface

*Diane M. Doberneck, Paula K. Miller, and John H. Schweitzer*

*Michigan State University*

This autoethnographic essay represents the authors' critical reflection on their experiences partnering with Liz Lerman and Dance Exchange (a dance company) artists on a collaborative evaluation of *The Matter of Origins*, a contemporary art and science dance performance. They describe meaningful moments in their collaboration and reexamine those pivotal experiences in the broader context of scholarly community engagement. Based on their reflections, the authors identified themes including ethnographic approaches to collaboration, shared systems of meaning, and developmental evaluation to understand the complex experiences that took place at the engagement interface. The essay concludes with suggested reflective questions for scholars to consider in their own community engagement activities.

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*Ken Tamminga and Deno De Ciantis*  
*The Pennsylvania State University*

University faculty and outreach program directors have been called to deliver more effective, equitable, and sustainable ways in which neighborhood and university communities may creatively interact. The authors report on the case of the Pittsburgh Studio, an initiative that matches students and resident stakeholders in researching local issues and identifying place-based solutions to catalyze resilience and conviviality in low-income neighborhoods. This article traces the cooperation of the Pittsburgh Studio and the Penn State Center, describes its conceptual basis, and concludes by outlining emerging best practices for neighborhood-based engaged scholarship in the post-industrial inner city.

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*Denise Bates, Elizabeth Burman, and Lacreisha Ejike-King*  
*The University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

*Charlotte Ruffyiri*  
*Solidarity, Development, and Light Association (SODELA)*

Healthy Transitions is a program of the University of Tennessee's Ready for the World initiative, a broad plan to transform campus culture and prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Healthy Transitions partners the university with a local community of Burundian refugees. The university joined several community organizations interested in the refugees' integration, and in examining the Burundians' experiences and perceptions during and post migration. Focus group data identified key areas of concern for the Burundians. Community-based participatory research provided relevant data and an infrastructure, including a nonprofit established by the Burundians, that enable the Burundian community to co-direct ongoing research and programming.

175..... Working Together to Improve the Lives of  
People Affected by Epilepsy in Zambia

*Gretchen L. Birbeck  
Michigan State University*

Epilepsy is a neurologic disorder that results in recurrent, unprovoked seizures. The biomedical burden of epilepsy can be substantial, but for many the social consequences may be just as extreme, with epilepsy victims suffering from social abandonment as well as economic and physical vulnerabilities. Since its founding in 2000, the Chikankata Epilepsy Care Team, a collaborative project between Michigan State University and the rural Zambian community of Chikankata, has worked to improve the lives of people with epilepsy. What began as a local nurse–medical student partnership in one small rural Zambian hospital has grown into a program that supports and enriches clinical services and advocacy programs throughout Zambia. Recognizing the imperative for knowledge to influence policy, this university–community partnership works tirelessly to inform key stakeholders and policy makers of its findings. The program received the 2011 Outreach Scholarship/W. K. Kellogg Foundation Engagement Award for the North Central region.

C. PETER MAGRATH UNIVERSITY/COMMUNITY  
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187..... Engineers Without Borders at Montana State University:  
Student-Led Engagement and Transnational Collaboration

*Otto R. Stein and Leah Schmalzbauer  
Montana State University*

The Montana State University student chapter of Engineers Without Borders USA is a student-managed partnership with the people of Khwisero, Kenya. The primary mission, to bring potable water and clean sanitation facilities to 61 primary schools and the surrounding communities of Khwisero, necessitates a long-term commitment to collaboration and cultural exchange. Engineers Without Borders has helped transform views regarding engaged scholarship at Montana State University. Students and faculty members are collectively advancing interdisciplinary, service-learning, and global action initiatives across the campus. This article describes the growth, organizational principles, and goals of Engineers Without Borders at Montana State University.

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