

Editor's Page: In this Special Issue . . .

In 2009, the University of Georgia (UGA) joined TRUCEN (The Research University Civic Engagement Network). The prompt to do so was two monographs the group produced from discussions held at their 2006 and 2007 meetings:

New Times Demand New Scholarship I: Research Universities and Civic Engagement – A Leadership Agenda, and

New Times Demand New Scholarship II: Research Universities and Civic Engagement – Opportunities and Challenges

The first document shaped our thinking about how to encourage the scholarship of engagement at the curricular, faculty, and institutional levels at UGA. The second illuminated in a real “ah-ha” way the dimensions of engaged research; it explained (with lots of diagrams) that

1. there can be different degrees of community engagement amongst the different stages of a research project (e.g., framing the question, determining the data collection method, using the data); and
2. the academic and the community impacts of research outcomes can vary – there is no “right level” of impact or “one-size-fits-all” engaged research.

I thought it would be great to be a part of this sharp-thinking group – that UGA would benefit from sharing and collaborating with like-minded colleagues.

Indeed, membership in TRUCEN has benefited the University of Georgia in a number of ways including generating ideas for new programs, activities, and assessment mechanisms; informing us of publication venues for articles by UGA faculty members; and strengthening UGA's connection with Campus Compact.

The University of Georgia was the host site for TRUCEN's 2010 meeting at which TRUCEN's draft mission statement was reviewed and approved. It occurred to us (the guest editors of this issue and me), that dedicating a special issue of the *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement* to TRUCEN would be a way to share the mission statement; the history of TRUCEN; examples of work being done in the global academy to advance

university-community engagement; best practice programs and activities at TRUCEN institutions; and a reprinting of the 2006 and 2007 monographs.

It is our hope that the contents of this thematic issue will be helpful to those at all types of postsecondary institutions in all corners of the world.

With warmest regards,

Trish Kalivoda

Editor

with guest editors

Maureen Curley

Director of Campus Compact

Ira Harkavy

Founding Director and Associate Vice President of the
Netter Center for Community Partnerships,
University of Pennsylvania

Kathy O'Byrne

Director of the University of California, Los Angeles
Center for Community Learning

Timothy K. Stanton

Director

Bing Overseas Studies Program in Cape Town
Stanford University
Cape Town, South Africa