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Faculty Fellows Program and Engaged Department/Cluster Program Overview

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Faculty Fellows Program and Engaged Department/Cluster Program Orientation

7/23/15

The Faculty Fellows Program and the Engaged Department Program is a year-long, faculty cohort program designed to significantly enhance the capacity of USM faculty and staff to conduct courses and develop research projects which directly engage the university with the community. Through a combination of cohort meetings (3 per semester) and individual consultations, participants will collaboratively explore cutting edge theories, practices, and assessment measures of community engaged learning and research. Additionally, participants have the opportunity to (re)develop a course, research proposal, or engaged project in accordance with these proven principles and techniques. Faculty fellows form a learning community, participating in cohort feedback loops and sharing their critical experiences at a year-end, university-wide showcase.

Program Goals

By creating fellowships through which faculty members share successful community-engaged teaching and research strategies, assist emerging community-engaged teachers and researchers, and disseminate promising practices in the form of an academic product, we hope to:

- Establish cohorts of Master Teachers and Researchers with expertise in particular facets of community-engaged teaching and research,
- Advance a form of mentorship between master and emerging community-engaged teachers and researchers,
- Enhance the quality of community-engaged learning experiences for USM students, and
- Showcase USM as Maine's Metropolitan University by constructing success stories of students working in and with the community.

Participant Expectations for Faculty Fellows and Engaged Department/Clusters

1. Participate in seminars and workshops focused on understanding best practices in pedagogy and research approaches for community-based learning and research.
2. Engage and learn from other faculty, students, and community partners regarding the application of these pedagogies, approaches, and practices to teaching and learning and research.
3. Use the fellowship experience to develop a new course (or significantly enhance an existing course) or research project that incorporates community-based or community-focused research activities that yield an important and tangible contribution to the work of one or more community partners (e.g., community groups, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, etc.).
4. Offer the new or revised course at least twice during the three academic years following completion of the fellowship year (for Faculty Fellows).
5. Share their experiences with course and research implementation with subsequent community-engaged Faculty Fellows and Departments/Clusters.
6. Participate in ongoing communication and collaboration with other Faculty Fellows and Engaged Departments in the program both during and after the fellow year.
7. Contribute to the continued development of the vision, mission, and programmatic activities needed to create a sustained, effective, and engaged Metropolitan University.