

2015

Pathways to the Metropolitan University

Rutgers-Camden

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/mu>

Recommended Citation

Rutgers-Camden, "Pathways to the Metropolitan University" (2015). *Maine's Metropolitan University*. 7.
<https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/mu/7>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Institutional Memory at USM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine's Metropolitan University by an authorized administrator of USM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jessica.c.hovey@maine.edu.



Pathways to the Metropolitan University

Wendell Pritchett
Chancellor

Andrew Seligsohn

Associate Chancellor for Civic Engagement and Strategic Planning

Rutgers-Camden

What Is a Metropolitan University?

Distinctive mission: To unleash the resources embedded in the campus to advance regional goals

- Provider of educational access and excellence for regional students of all ages
- Educator of the next generation of regional leaders
- Source of innovation to address regional challenges
- Participant in conversations on key regional issues
- Partner in regional initiatives
- Convener and venue for regional events and discussions
- Economic actor driving regional growth and opportunity

Shulock, N. & Ketcheson, K. Assessing the Metropolitan University Mission, *Metropolitan Universities: an International Forum*, 10 (2000): 4:63-72.

Elements of a Systematic Approach

- Senior leadership with university-wide reach
- Faculty capacity-building for teaching and research
- Alignment of tenure and promotion standards
- Curricular development and reform
- Student curricular and co-curricular opportunities
- Resources and structures for regionally-relevant research
- Resources and structures for outreach
- Economic development strategy and staffing
- College access and pipeline programs
- Platform partnerships
- Consistent messaging about the anchor institution role and the centrality of engagement

Exemplars

- UMass Dartmouth
- University of Louisville
- University of Nebraska-Omaha
- Northern Kentucky University
- Syracuse University
- Portland State University

Factors Determining Time to Liftoff

- What is already happening through centers and institutes, the curriculum, etc.?
- Is there pent-up demand for engagement among students and faculty?
- Do you have willing partners among community organizations and anchor institutions?
- Can you immediately provide funding to incentivize action?

Factors Determining Financial Costs and Benefits

- Will you need new staffing? Can you re-define roles, appoint faculty leaders, etc.?
- What incentives will work for faculty?
- What external support is available, e.g., community foundations, corporate CSR and foundations?
- Can you shape an attractive admissions profile, focusing on a new academic program, experiential learning, internships, etc.

Pitfalls

- Internal
 - Perception of top-down approach
 - Choosing focus areas from above rather than locating interests that dovetail with existing capacity
 - Perception of conflict with academic rigor
- External
 - Sense that the university shows up only when it benefits the university
 - Language of using communities as laboratories
 - Creating multiple projects without sufficient staff support

Relationship to academic organization

- Professional schools are early adopters with high impact
- Social sciences easy to recruit
- Natural sciences more challenging to recruit but potentially high impact
- Metropolitan mission can become a criterion for evaluating proposed programs

Means to Engage Community

- Begin by listening
- Build from existing relationships
- Invite partners and potential partners to campus for conversations with the president
- Before starting these events, develop a general plan for moving from talk to action, including a timeline

Benchmarks

- President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll
- Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement: 2020
- Local purchasing
- Local hiring
- Total economic impact
- Students enrolled and graduated from low-opportunity communities

The background features a large, faint, circular seal of Rutgers University Camden. The seal contains the text "UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY" at the top, "1766" in the center, "RUTGERS" on the right, and "THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY" at the bottom. The seal is surrounded by a decorative border.

RUTGERS

CAMDEN

camden.rutgers.edu
chancellor@camden.rutgers.edu