Working with Citizens in the EPIC-N Model

D. Gavin Luter, PhD
UniverCity Alliance Director
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Tuesday, April 10, 2018
Why are we doing this work?

• Help cities improve quality of life
• Help students learn professional and civic skills

• Transform our institutions to be more concerned with community-based problem-solving
• Advance democratic practices on and off campus

We harness the capacity of our institutions—through research, teaching, partnerships, and institutional practice—to challenge the prevailing social and economic inequalities that threaten our democratic future. – Campus Compact Civic Action Statement, https://compact.org/actionstatement/statement/
Democratic Partnerships (Harkavy & Hartley, 2009)

- PURPOSE – explicit purpose of advancing democracy
- PROCESS - rejecting unilateral top-down approaches; favoring processes that prioritize public participation, openness, transparency, trust, and egalitarianism.
- PRODUCT – contributing to the well-being of the community through structural community improvement
Ladder of Citizen Participation

Arnstein, 1969
Acknowledging Power Differentials + Building Reciprocity

• Co-created syllabus
• Formal recognition (credentials, course credit, stipends, campus benefits)
• Consider building long-term leaders, not 1-time participants
• Co-writing or presentation opportunities
• Remember the simple things: Can the partner access a campus parking space? Can they navigate campus buildings? Consider community partner ambassadors.
• Share norms / expectations for campus & community environments

Inspired by Stanley, 2013
Those who are closest to the issues and closest to the solutions...

- Relationship between city government and citizens?
- Community organizers & participatory, grassroots approaches
- How can the community help set priorities?

Eric Howland, MOSES

Jerome Dillard, EXPO
References


THANK YOU

gavin@cows.org
http://univercity.wisc.edu/

UNIVERCITY ALLIANCE