Bridging the gap: connecting academia and community

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Cycles of learning, cycles of research

- "a collaborative process between the researcher and community partner that creates and disseminates knowledge and creative expression with the goal of contributing to the discipline and strengthening the well-being of the community" (Virginia Commonwealth University)

- Synonyms: PAR, CBR, AR, PR, CER, CBPAR, etc

- Improve understanding, action, and capacity

http://www.servicelearning.umn.edu/info/reflection.html

https://techknowtools.com/tag/community-based-participatory-action-research
Work and service

1. Community Mapping in Snidcel (Todd inlet)
2. Restorative justice and gardening at Serenity Farms
3. Land inventory of available arable land in N. Saanich
4. Podcasts on family perceptions of cycling in Greater Victoria (GV Cycling Coalition)

- Competency development
  - applied in continuing academic pursuits as well as in professional endeavours beyond the academy.
  - E.g. Project Managers in NGO’s require research skills to develop, fund and hone their initiatives.
“reflection whereby experience enhances understanding [and] understanding leads to more effective action”

SOSC CEL Guiding Principles

Mutually beneficial
Capacity building
Action oriented
Respectful
Sustainable relationships
Meaningful
Accountability
Prepared
Reflective
Empowering
Transparent
Co-created
Responsible
Civic engagement
Knowledge exchange
Experiential
Accessible
Expectations
Perceived benefits

**Students**
- Increases employability through broadened network and experience
- Develops competencies
- Prepares students to participate in research
- Builds sense of civic engagement
- Heightens interest in course content
- Develops sense of pride for tangible and useful course deliverables
- Deepens learning

**Campus**
- Encourages students to stay engaged in course content and discussion
- Increases student retention
- Maintain up-to-date course design and content based on students’ role as knowledge mobilizers
- Build trusting relationships through positive experiences with community partners
- Enhances faculty – students mentorship
- Increases students’ awareness of societal issues as they relate to academic areas of interest

**Community**
- Contributes student time, enthusiasm and knowledge to community endeavours.
- Expands organizational capacity and builds leadership and mentorship skills within the organization
- Promotes awareness-building of community issues and agencies
- Provides opportunities for participating in the educational process
- Provides affordable access to professional development
Supports

- Professors/ mentors/ placement supervisors
- Learning and Teaching Centre
- Mitacs
- SOSC
  - Indigenous Advisor – Ruth Young
  - CEL Coordinator – Rhianna Nagel
  - CEL website
- OCUE
  - interactive engagement map
- UVic Community Mapping Collaboratory
- UVic Research Ethics Board
- Cooperative Education and Career Services
  - SOSR Coop Coordinators - Helen Kobrc, Jenny Nilsson
  - Co-curricular record
  - Competency kit
  - Experiential learning maps
  - Volunteer resources
- Student Affairs
  - Project Serve Day
- First Peoples House
- Global Engagement
- Your peers!
Communicating expectations

- Getting to know each other builds trust and understanding
- Clarifying expectations opens communication and helps manage expectations
  - How to work together
  - Needs, desired outcomes, what we bring (project & personal)
  - Logistics (process, communication, etc)
  - Challenge yourself, but don’t bite off more than you can chew
- Informed consent
- Anonymity and confidentiality
- Ownership/ credits of findings and deliverables
- Feedback and final dissemination
THANKS!

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