

**Engaged Scholarship**,

**Service-Learning** and

**Community Outreach**

are essential components of the mission of the University of Connecticut.

**Responsible Relevant Reciprocal**

The **Office of Public Engagement** fosters engagement in a variety of forms across the University community and thereby extends the transformational impact the University has throughout the state and beyond our geographical borders. Organized under the auspices of the Office of the Provost, OPE is responsible for the leadership, coordination, connection, facilitation, fostering, preparation and promotion of outreach programs and engaged scholarship which serve the public good, help prepare our students to be leaders in their chosen fields and support faculty and staff in scholarly outreach efforts.

**Engaged Scholarship**

**Engaged Scholarship** involves the university member in the academically relevant work of teaching, discovery, creativity, integration, application and engagement in a context of collaboration and reciprocity with the community (local, regional/state, national, or global).  It entails collaborative and mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources between academia and the community to create conditions for the public good. Occurs within and across disciplines and has the following characteristics: clear goals, adequate preparation, appropriate methods, meaningful results, effective presentation, reflective critique, rigor and peer-review.

* Institution - connects the intellectual assets of higher education institutions, including faculty and staff expertise and high-quality graduate and undergraduate students, to public issues.
* Faculty - is a vehicle through which faculty can participate in work that simultaneously fulfills the campus mission and goals, as well as addresses community needs and interests.
* Student - can enhance academic learning and knowledge generation because of its ability to blend research, teaching, and service.
* Community - residents, organizations, and policy makers collaborate with their academic partner to identify relevant societal needs and share their perspectives, expectations and expertise to jointly develop and apply solutions to issues.

**Service-Learning**

The **Office of Service-Learning** (OSL), as part of the Office of Public Engagement, supports academic and program focused service-learning at the University. The OSL is a resource for students, faculty, staff and community partners interested in the pedagogy of Service-Learning.

**Service-Learning** is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities.” -Carnegie Foundation Definition of Service-Learning

**Service-Learning Faculty Fellows**

The Office of Service-Learning in collaboration with the Institute for Teaching and Learning provides professional development and course assistance for faculty interested in teaching a service-learning course.  This initiative improves the quality and visibility of Service-Learning by increasing the number and variety of service-learning courses offered throughout the University - the main campus at Storrs, all of the regional campuses, the Health Center, and the Law School.Courses may be undergraduate or graduate, domestic or international.

* Fellows are selected annually through a competitive review process
* Selected fellows will receive a stipend to
	+ Participate in instructional design activities, meetings and developmental workshops
	+ Implement service-learning

**Community Partner Development**

**Community Partner Development** is the cornerstone of Public Engagement and Service-Learning initiatives here at UConn. We strive to develop sustainable and mutually beneficial partnerships with community partners within both Public Engagement and Service-Learning and to provide tools to ensure successful collaborations.

Our community partnerships are representative of the university’s core values whether they are focused on education, health, water, legal issues, nutrition, landscape architecture and/or a myriad of other issues that contribute to the public good. In each partnership the ontological and epistemological focus of relevant, responsible and reciprocal reign.

**Involvement**

We invite all to join the **Public Engagement Forum. T**he Forum represents all constituent units of the University with membership drawn from faculty, staff, administration, and community partners. Meetings are held throughout the semester to discuss initiatives, professional development, and institutional progress. Please refer to [engagement.uconn.edu](https://engagement.uconn.edu) for meeting times and locations.

In recognition of the importance of engagement in UConn’s core values, mission and practice, 2014 has been designated as the Year of Engagement.



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Website - <http://engagement.uconn.edu>

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