

PRIORITY 3: Enhance and Expand Community Partnerships

As a comprehensive public university, Indiana University South Bend is poised to play a pivotal role in the community as well as the academy. Thus, part of our mission for the future is to serve as the community and regional gateway to educational opportunities and consultative resources. With wide-ranging internal support from administration, faculty, students, and alumni, Indiana University South Bend will build new bridges to our external audiences, strengthening and expanding alliances with schools, business, labor, government agencies, and other regional and statewide educational institutions to support our mutual aspirations. Our goals are consistent with the Higher Learning Commission's theme of *"institutional engagement."*

Our major recommendations focus on fostering a campus-wide ethic of service and deepening "the scholarship of engagement" at Indiana University South Bend. Our goals include enhancing the Office of Community Links to serve as a community-campus clearing house and expanding UCET workshops to develop broader awareness of the potential of service and experiential learning. Action items include greater recognition of and incentives for exemplary partnership activities, and active participation in the American Democracy Project. We also recommend exploring new connections with Purdue programs, ITSC, the other Indiana University campuses, and the K-12 community.

While educators agree on the benefits of campus-community linkages, assessing their impact on learning has lagged behind their implementation. To that end, we recommend the preparation of an annual report on Indiana University South Bend partnerships, and support the use of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) to provide an assessment and strategic planning tool.

PRIORITIES FOR COMMUNITY INTERACTION

**I. Develop Campus Plan for Partnership and the "Scholarship of Engagement" Supporting Student, Staff and Faculty Service**

1. Develop and set partnership priorities, guidelines, and criteria aligned with IUSB mission and future goals.
2. Explore and develop new community internship options for students and faculty.
3. Expand support for "Community Links" as a campus-community partnership clearing-house.
4. Create IUSB "Speakers Bureau" (including student "ambassadors," faculty, staff, and alumni).
5. Promote more on-campus visits for public, prospective students, and community patrons.

**II. Explore and Foster New Educational Partnerships**

1. Expand IUSB/ "K-12" and "K-16" Exchanges and program development.
2. Expand relationships with IUSB-Purdue programs.
3. Promote, review, and assess IUSB "transition" programs with ITSC.
4. Continue negotiations for transfer agreements with Michigan 2-Year Colleges.
5. Expand inter-campus student, faculty, and staff connections with other IU campuses.

**III. Expand options for and participation in experiential and service learning and civic engagement**

1. Expand UCET workshops on Service Learning and Experiential pedagogies.
2. Promote student, staff, faculty engagement in activities such as "American Democracy Project."
3. Adapt Bloomington "ACES" program model for IUSB student/community internships.

**IV. Establish Annual Cycle of Assessment, Reporting, and Rewards for Engagement**

1. Adopt the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) as basis for annual report on student engagement to campus and community.
2. Recognize Student, Staff, Faculty engagement achievements