

Background

I was invited to MSU by the UOE team at MSU as one of the speakers in their first Global Engagement Speaker's Series where Rajesh Tandon, Shawn Wilson, Catherine Odara-Hoopers and I have participated. As it happened my turn took place in the week of the US election and the death of Leonard Cohen. The US election results took up a lot of energy as shock and grieving flowed through nearly all those involved in the UOE work.

University Outreach and Engagement

MSU has the most extensive academic support structure designed to advance its engagement scholarship mission in the United States. Supported by the University's general fund and by external grants and contracts, UOE serves all units across MSU's 17 colleges. MSU is a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement Institution and plays a national and international role in engagement scholarship. The Associate Provost Hiram Fitzgerald leads the Engaged Scholarship Consortium, a national space for sharing work in this field.

Community-engaged scholarship lies at the core of the UOE mission, a mission that addresses all aspects of research, teaching and learning and outreach. The UOE:

- Serves the interests of communities
- Supports community engaged scholarship
- Involves MSU students locally and globally
- Advocates for community engagement
- Conducts research and evaluation
- Provides learning opportunities
 - Graduate Certificate in Community Engagement
 - Tools of engagement for under grads
 - Service-Learning
- Tells MSU's community engagement story
- Promotes public access

How is it organised?

Associate Provost for University Outreach and Engagement – Hiram Fitzgerald (a distinguished scholar who places CBR at the centre of the UOE)

Assistant Provost for University-Community Partnerships – Laurie Van Egeren

Director, MSU Detroit Centre – Jena Baker-Calloway

Director of Communications and the National Collaborative for the Study of University Engagement – Burton Bargerstock

Executive Director of the Wharton Centre for the Performing Arts – Michael Brand

Director, Arts and Cultural Initiatives – C. Kurt Dewhurst

Acting Director, MSU Museum – Lora Helou

Director, Centre for Community and Economic Development-Rex LaMore

Director, Julian Samora Research Institute – Ruben Martinez

Director, Community Evaluation and Research Collaborative – Miles McNall

Director, Gifted and Talented Education – Susan Sheth

Director, Usability/Accessibility Research and Consulting – Sarah Swierenga

Director, Centre for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement

Outreach and Engagement Measurement Index

Burt Bargerstock, the Director of the National Collaborative for the Study of University Engagement developed the OEMI as an on-line instrument to capture MSU activities and assess quality. The OEMI looks at what it calls “Points of Distinction” when reviewing faculty contributions: significance, context, scholarship and impact. The OEMI has about 20 per cent response rate from faculty at MSU. Burt is happy to provide us with a link to this instrument.

Other items of interest

The Centrality of Engagement in Higher Education Fitzgerald et al Journal of HE Outreach and Engagement Vol 16 No 3 7-27

Discussion Guide for Departments and Colleges About Engaged Scholarship in Promotion and Tenure by Diane Doberneck, Chris Glass and John Schweitzer UOE 2011

Core Community Engagement Competencies for Faculty (Blanchard et al 2009)

Core Community Engagement Competencies for Graduate Students by Diane Doberneck, Burton Bargerstock, Laurie Van Egeren, Miles McNall and Renee Zientek

Summary of the 2001 Revisions to the Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure Form at Michigan State University: Expanding the Definition of Scholarship to Include Engagement Glass, Doberneck and Schweitzer . East Lansing: NCSUE No 1 Jan 2010