Community Engagement Definitions

**Community:** 1. a group of individuals organized into a unit or manifesting some unifying trait or common interest; (Institute of Medicine, 2003). 2. community need not be defined solely by geography. It can refer to a group that self-identifies by age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, special interest, faith, life experience, disability, illness, or health condition. It can refer to a common interest or cause, a sense of identification or shared emotional connection, shared values or norms, mutual influence, common interest, or commitment to meeting a shared need. (CCPH Board of Directors, 2005)

**Community Engagement:** collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.

**Community Engagement Components:** In higher education and academic medical centers, community engagement has been applied in multiple contexts. While these are all forms of community engagement, they are unique to each other. They vary in their application, as well as how pervasive they may be and, by association, how structured and evolved the methodology and science of the application may be. An institution may define their community engagement by incorporating all or only select components.

**Community Engagement Components:**

**Community Engaged Research/Community Engagement in Research (CEnR):** CEnR is a process of inclusive participation that supports mutual respect of values, strategies, and actions for authentic partnership of people affiliated with or self-identified by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations to address issues affecting the well-being of the community or focus. (Ahmed & Palermo, 2008)

**Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR):** a collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. CBPR begins with a research topic of importance to the community and has the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change. (W.K. Kellogg Community Health Scholars Program, 2001)

**Community Outreach:** the ways faculty, staff, and students collaborate with external groups in mutually beneficial partnerships that are grounded in scholarship and consistent with the role and mission of their professional appointment. (Adapted from CU-Boulder Council of Deans, February 16, 2010; http://outreach.colorado.edu/about/outreach-definition)

**Community Service:** is co-curricular or extra-curricular—it's something you do apart from or in addition to your academic or professional duties. You may enjoy helping others and want to volunteer in the local community on your own. (Adapted from http://www.eiu.edu/volunteer/defservice.php)
Service Learning: “a structured learning experience that combines community service with preparation and reflection. Students engaged in service-learning provide community service in response to community-identified concerns and learn about the context in which service is provided, the connection between their service and their academic coursework, and their roles as citizens and professionals.” (LCME IS-14-A)

Participatory-based Research Network (PBRN): a group of ambulatory practices devoted principally to the primary care of patients, and affiliated in their mission to investigate questions to community-based practice and to improve the quality of primary care. This includes a sense of ongoing commitment to network activities and an organizational structure that transcends a single research project. (http://www.ahrq.gov/research/findings/factsheets/primary/pbrn/index.html)

Translational Research: (1) The process of applying discoveries generated during research in the laboratory, and in preclinical studies, to the development of trials and studies in humans (as well as the process of applying bedside observations to inform bench to discoveries); and (2) Research aimed at enhancing the adoption of best practices in the community. In more everyday terms you might think of translational research as moving the research process through phases from bench to animal to human to guidelines development to public health and ultimately to population outcomes and global health. [Summarizes NIH’s definition]

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