



## UNC CHARLOTTE MISSION

UNC Charlotte is North Carolina's urban research university. It leverages its location in the state's largest city to offer internationally competitive programs of research and creative activity, exemplary undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs, and a focused set of community engagement initiatives.

UNC Charlotte maintains a particular commitment to addressing the cultural, economic, educational, environmental, health, and social needs of the greater Charlotte region.

## CIVIC ACTION PLAN MISSION

The Civic Action Plan is a sustainable and long-term approach to fully activate the University's mission to address the unique needs of the Charlotte region.

The plan provides a strategy to improve social outcomes by organizing University resources, community-based research efforts, and community collaborations to effectively address regional need through collective impact.

## GOALS

Enhance quality of life in the Charlotte region through mutually beneficial partnerships.

Build a culture of civic responsibility through experiential learning, community-based research, and volunteerism.

Establish metrics and an assessment process that evaluate the collective impact of community engagement.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

Establish a centralized structure, with dedicated staff, to coordinate and support the University's community engagement efforts and assess collective impact.

Build "Community Engagement Zones" designed as multi-year interdisciplinary university-wide initiatives with common themes and shared agendas responsive to community need.



# 49 ACTIONS

## CIVIC ACTION PLAN



**1** Establish a centralized structure, with dedicated staff, to coordinate and support the University's community engagement efforts and assess collective impact.

**2** Build "Community Engagement Zones" designed as multi-year interdisciplinary university-wide initiatives with common themes and shared agendas responsive to community need.

### Teaching and Learning

1. Increase the number of faculty teaching service-learning or community-based research courses by creating a cadre of engagement instructors to support community engaged pedagogical approaches.
2. Provide professional development and resources to create a shared meaning of community engagement.
3. Work with instructors to integrate community engagement into course curriculum.
4. Provide dedicated personnel to support the coordination of community-based service learning.
5. Support 49er Democracy Experience to broaden voter registration, voter education, and voter mobilization.
6. Provide opportunities for students to and develop skills for civil discourse by engaging in critical thinking, expanding knowledge of civic leadership, and supporting advocacy.
7. Work with the Career Center to expand civic internship opportunities that enhance careers in public life.
8. Intentionally connect academic outreach centers and academic programs to increase student participation in community-based experiences.
9. Provide resources and incentives to increase the number of service-learning designated majors, minors, courses.
10. Work with the Office of International Programs will expand international service-learning opportunities.
11. Partner with first-year programs to increase early participation in community engagement activities and to create a common community engagement culture in the first year.
12. Work with the college and units to offer a series of community engagement experiences that deepen as students progress through their years of study.
13. Increase collaboration between student affairs and academic affairs to provide co-curricular community engagement experiences
14. Work with the colleges and units to locate strategic blocks of undergraduate community engaged courses at UNC Charlotte's Center City campus to leverage experiential learning opportunities in Charlotte's business district.

### Research

15. Increase external funding for community based research and teaching for faculty and community partners by identifying resources, coaching proposals, and navigating proposals through institutional requirements.
16. Increase access to community based research by identifying ways to reduce costs for research involving partnerships with local government and community organizations.
17. Create a portal of community resources for community engaged research.
18. The office will establish and support formal mentoring programs that introduce faculty and staff to community need and encourage faculty and staff to conduct community-engaged research.
19. Increase the number of faculty teaching service-learning or community-based research courses or faculty participating in community-based research projects by providing support or incentives for faculty participation in community engagement higher education organizations and community engaged research conferences (i.e. Campus Compact, Engagement Scholarship Consortium, CUMU, IRSLC, APLU).
20. Incentivize collaborative, multi-disciplinary community partnerships.
21. Coordinate events or engagement awards for departments and individuals, in coordination with other units
22. Assist colleges and units to incorporate community-engaged research, teaching, learning and service as an integral part of evaluation systems including faculty review, promotion, and tenure processes and annual reviews.
23. Assist colleges and units to incorporate community engagement into their operations by adopting expanded definitions of scholarship and standards for assessing scholarship such as the Classic/Boyer model.
24. Advocate for a university workload policy that takes into account time required for community engagement activities.
25. Identify community needs and opportunities for the university to collaborate and partner with community agencies.

### Internal Policy Support

22. Assist colleges and units to incorporate community-engaged research, teaching, learning and service as an integral part of evaluation systems including faculty review, promotion, and tenure processes and annual reviews.
23. Assist colleges and units to incorporate community engagement into their operations by adopting expanded definitions of scholarship and standards for assessing scholarship such as the Classic/Boyer model.
24. Advocate for a university workload policy that takes into account time required for community engagement activities.
25. Identify community needs and opportunities for the university to collaborate and partner with community agencies.
26. Utilize technology to facilitate community engagement participation and assessment.
27. Develop metrics for documenting engagement impacts, efficiency, effectiveness, and satisfaction.
28. Assess responsiveness to community needs in partnership with community stakeholders.
29. Compile reports and collaborate with other units to advise and improve community engagement efforts by renewing Carnegie Community Engagement Administration metrics on UNC
30. Increase tracking and reporting of community-engaged service activities.
31. Support best practices for community engagement
32. Recognize the University community for its community engagement efforts, in coordination with other units.
33. Facilitate common educational experiences for community stakeholders and the UNC Charlotte community by offering signature community engagement events that bring targeted community members/leaders to campus.
34. Create academic and professional development seminar offerings for the community.
35. Create opportunities for community leaders to educate university audiences about community needs.
36. Increase participation in community-engaged service activities by promoting community engagement opportunities using social media and promote community service events on campus.
37. Match skill-based volunteer opportunities with specific community needs.

### Assessment/Reporting

38. Recognizing that UNC Charlotte is an access institution contributing to economic and social mobility in the region, the University will strengthen internal networks to improve student quality of life outcomes.
39. Recognizing that UNC Charlotte is a major employer contributing to economic and social mobility in the Charlotte region, the university will cultivate internal partnerships that promote quality of life of employees.
40. First year programs, like the Common Reading and Prospect for Success, will be targeted to participate in Community Engagement Zone efforts.
41. Community lecture offerings like the Civic Series, Personally Speaking, and Women's Summit will align with Community Engagement Zone common themes.
42. Community Engagement Zones will work with Legal Affairs and Research and Economic Development to draft memoranda of agreement with key community partner organizations.
43. Selecting economic mobility as a common theme, the university will increase understanding of barriers to economic and social mobility through a series of community engagement events, educational programs, curricular and co-curricular opportunities, and community-based research.
44. To improve economic mobility in the University City area, UNC Charlotte will support the University City Family Zone in partnership with local organizations.\*
45. Community Engagement Zones will include assessment and reporting of collective impacts.
46. Community Engagement Zones will establish university/community strategic institutional agreements that facilitate engaged teaching and research partnerships by developing local neighborhood or community outposts for delivering services to local residents in high-need areas.

### Internal Alignment

47. UNC Charlotte will design and focus Community Engagement Zones to achieve distinction in the critical workforce areas of K-12 education and health and human services. We will maintain our leadership as one of the states largest sources of K-12 teacher licensure candidates, including those in high need areas, by establishing the first Early College for Teachers, and a community based Lab School.
48. UNC Charlotte maintain leadership in research and graduate education in Special Education, a high need area, through Community Engagement Zone support.
49. Community Engagement Zones will strengthen the health and human services sector through graduate education and research in public health by achieving accreditation for a School of Public Health and by increasing extramural support for research in health by successive annual increases of 5%.

### Workforce Development