

## **Community-Campus Partnership for Tomorrow Discussion Group on July 30, 2008**

Participants: Kathleen Gray, Josh Hewitt, Rosemary Howard, Carol Jenkins, and Carl Taylor  
Facilitator: Vaughn Upshaw Note taker: Amy Gorely

### **What are we looking for in a community partner?**

- Possible emphasis on Tier 1 counties, those in greatest need
- Flexibility in region versus community
- Reciprocity in community / willingness to work in a partnership with the university
- Let the community define itself, interests and needs as well as how the university can best be responsive to those
- Keep in mind political decision-making boundaries for possible policy changes
- Acknowledge and work with the issues of racism that exist in communities
- A community that can help create an engaged and active citizenry

### **Should we work with one or more communities in the pilot project?**

Things to consider include:

- Depends upon how the project and its success is defined (especially since this is a pilot)
- Potential to learn more if there are two communities to compare and learn from
- \$350,000 is limited resources, yet there will be other resources from UNC units and other community and campus partners
- Question whether we want everything to go to one community (that might be an overload of people and effort in one place)
- Could argue for a limited time it might be best to focus on one community and then use it as a model to expand the pilot around the state

### **What would success look like?**

From the community perspective:

- Local ownership of project
- Builds capacity of community
- Achieves realistic goals that the community sets
- Feel like it was a genuine partnership in which both partners benefit
- Growing of good citizens because enthusiasm of youth is important, they are the future of the communities and children affect parents
- Pride in the project, feel they have something they can contribute and share with others
- Sustainable (after UNC leaves)

From the UNC perspective:

- Creating a model that is inclusive of multiple perspectives (and how issues got to be problems)
- Needs to last much longer than one year in order to build meaningful partnerships

## **How to recruit genuine partners?**

Consider including the following groups:

- Campus leadership – and ask who are the UNC people in the field in the community
- Faculty are important for their expertise, and partnering faculty and staff is very important
- UNC Chapel Hill or other UNC system alumna (could post info in Alumni magazine)
- UNC Chapel Hill students, staff and faculty from the community
- School of Government, Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and other current connections
- People who attended the UNC Tomorrow Community Forums
- Those who self-identify because they hold important data about the community
- Erskin Bowles and Chancellor Thorp need to be key partners in the effort

It is important who the invitation to participate comes from in the community. It is good to try to reach beyond the usual suspects, and beyond those who are in formal positions of power. Many of our alumni are very invested in their communities and are in leadership positions. It is important for them to be involved in the change, but also recognize they may play a role in the problem.

Consider having two groups:

1. “Partner-ready” (would change this title): Communities which are already aware of their issues and have an openness and ability to partner more quickly with UNC and others. Let the community know they are part of creating a model for the rest of the state.
2. Not-quite-partner-ready: Communities which have not as clearly defined or agreed upon their key issues

## **What are examples of current multi-discipline efforts at UNC?**

Institute for the Environment has an example, but it is somewhat politically driven and staff operate in silos. The Carolina Center for Public Service coordinates the Faculty Engaged Scholars Program which brings faculty from across campus together to learn about and work on engaged scholarship. Note that we are asking communities to take a multi-discipline approach to a problem, while UNC faculty and staff do not always take this approach to their work. It was suggested that the Office of Vice Chancellor for Public Service and Engagement could help play a role in helping to facilitate multi-discipline work.

## **TWO MAIN POINTS TO REPORT:**

- Consider having two different communities, one that is more partner-ready and one that is not as much.
- Involve as many as we can from Carolina in this project – students, staff, faculty, and alumni. “Who’s your daddy (and where are they from)?” has a new relevance in this project.

Those involved in this discussion also asked to be kept informed as the project gets more specific.