



Partners for
Campus-Community

For Immediate Release

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Partners for Campus-Community Engagement is Walking the Walk

The nonprofit announced its new, shared governance structure to include community partners as well as their institutions of higher education to address the need for genuine relationships to cross the town and gown divide

Ithaca, NY 4/4/22 – At a virtual celebration in March, Dr. Laurie Worrall, Executive Director for Partners for Campus-Community Engagement, introduced a wide variety of stakeholders to the new, reimagined non-profit, which is an outgrowth of the New York & Pennsylvania state offices of Campus Compact (CCNYPA).

As the field of community engagement reckons with centuries-old injustices, inequity, and a breakdown of cooperation toward the public good, CCNYPA was compelled to evolve to concentrate on authentic, place-based, reciprocal community engagement. To that end, and through deep, strategic, and candid conversations, they are reemerging as Partners for Campus-Community Engagement.

Dr. Worrall said, “Partners for Campus-Community Engagement’s mission is simple but powerful – to convene, connect, and empower campuses to build equitable and just relationships with communities in order to advance a democratic society for the public good.” She continued, “Partners for Campus-Community Engagement is changing paradigms by equalizing power within campus-community dynamics through the inclusion of community partners as equal members with an equal voice at the table.”

Dr. Kevin Drumm, SUNY Broome President and Partners for Campus-Community Engagement Board Chair said, “It’s always inspiring being a member institution and being on the board, sharing ideas and visions with other college presidents. And, as we morph this organization, bringing in community partners in a much more strategic way as part of the core governance of the organization, we’ll get better and more creative ideas by having a more diverse governance structure than we’ve had in the past.”

For the past 30 years, the organization led the charge to advance equitable, place-based community engagement, provided grant support for campuses, and developed innovative professional development for members in the region. That ensured Pennsylvania and New York colleges and universities would graduate students who not only become future leaders in their chosen fields but also civically engaged leaders in their communities.

Dr. David Rogers, President, Morrisville State University and Partners for Campus-Community Engagement Board member stated, "It's very clear to most educators that the curriculum that we advance creates talented professionals and prepares individuals for their lives, as in contributing to their careers, but not always are we as aggressive in promoting good citizenship...It's clear that there's an increasing need for that."

Dr. Char Gray-Sorensen, Director of Special Projects for Partners for Campus-Community Engagement said, "With the inclusion of community partners on a level field, not only will those partners be co-educators for the college and university students, they will play a true part in developing processes, programs, and priorities that authentically meet the public purposes of higher education - that's a truly exciting new direction for the field of community engagement. "

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ABOUT PARTNERS FOR CAMPUS-COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Partners for Campus-Community Engagement (PCCE) convenes, connects, and empowers campuses and community partners to build equitable and just relationships with communities in order to advance a democratic society for the public good. With our support, we envision that every campus-community partnership embraces the values of transformation, collaboration, equity, stewardship, service, leadership, empathy, and reconciliation.