SEATTLE UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2018
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Seattle University Center for Community Engagement is at a dynamic and exciting time in its development. Since its establishment in 2004, the Center has dramatically expanded the use of academic service-learning among Seattle University faculty. The Center has also developed a series of innovative programs designed to mobilize Seattle University students to lead their peers in ethical and effective campus-community partnerships. Finally, the Center has played a leadership role in launching the Seattle University Youth Initiative. Because of the Center’s work, Seattle University has been recognized locally, regionally and nationally for its success in connecting the campus and community.

The Strategic Plan: In order to build upon its current success and maximize its impact in supporting Seattle University’s overall mission, the Center created a new strategic plan during the 2014-2015 academic year. This plan will guide the Center’s programs, partnerships and staff decision-making in 2015-2018.

Mission Statement: The Center for Community Engagement connects campus and community to pursue a more just and humane world.

Vision: By building a seamless web of interconnection between the educational programs of Seattle University and the needs and assets of the local community, the Center for Community Engagement will positively transform our university and our communities.

Values: The Center for Community Engagement’s work depends on reciprocal relationships based on integrity and trust. We embody this ethos through the following values:

1. **Service.** We are committed to engaging with others with compassion, creativity, and care.
2. **Justice.** Acknowledging the dignity of all individuals, we seek a world in which all people thrive.
3. **Collaboration.** Community defined needs and strengths guide and inspire our work.
4. **Respect.** We act with humility and a sense of gratitude.
5. **Responsibility.** We make the best use of our resources through work that is data driven, efficient and effective.
THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN: 2015-2018

Goal #1: Engage SU students and faculty to serve, learn and lead for a just and humane world.

To attain our ambitious vision, we must pursue a full-scale university-wide effort to connect the campus and community. This involves deep and expansive partnerships with hundreds of faculty, staff and students as well as dozens of academic departments and campus offices. We aspire to significantly enhance SU’s positive impact in Seattle while directly addressing significant University priorities including (1) the enrollment and retention of students, (2) the overall student experience, (3) diversity and inclusion, (4) faculty research, (5) social innovation, and (6) online and continuing education. Our work to mobilize the campus involves specific interrelated but distinct strategies focusing on students, faculty, and institutional offices and divisions.

A. To deepen SU student engagement in our local neighborhoods, we will improve our integrated systems to recruit, place, train, track and support students in our Serve Local Campaign and academic service-learning courses.

B. To contribute to SU students’ overall success, we will expand and diversify our engagement with and support of all students.

C. To deepen the quality and impact of SU faculty involved in community engaged teaching and scholarship, we will develop an integrated system to track and support faculty.

D. To fully institutionalize and sustain SU’s commitment to connecting the campus and community, we will partner with campus leaders to further integrate community engagement into SU academic and co-curricular service-learning.

Goal #2: Build capacity for social change in our local community.

The Center for Community Engagement’s diverse partnerships with community-based organizations, schools, and governmental agencies represent the varying needs and assets of the community and the SU campus. Our approach is both broad and deep. We pursue expansive impact on many issues through partnerships arising from dozens of academic service-learning courses and co-curricular service-learning programs. We also pursue focused impact through intensive work with a more select group of community partners pursuing the goals of the Seattle University Youth Initiative (SUYI). The following goals and strategic activities, while simple as stand-alone projects, make up a complex portfolio guided by the goals of the Center and also SUYI’s goals and Theory of Change.
A. To maintain reciprocal and sustainable partnerships we will support our academic and co-curricular service-learning community partners in achieving their organizational goals and desire to be co-educators.

B. To prepare SUYI neighborhood children for Kindergarten, we will deepen and expand the capacity of our partners to serve preschool age students.

C. To improve the academic proficiency of elementary students, we will deepen and expand our capacity and the capacity of Bailey Gatzert Elementary and partnering organizations to better serve elementary students.

D. To improve the academic proficiency of middle school students, we will deepen and expand our capacity and the capacity of Washington Middle School and partnering organizations to better support students.

E. To improve the academic proficiency of high school students, we will deepen and expand our capacity and the capacity of Garfield, Middle College and Summit Sierra High Schools and partnering organizations to better support students.

F. To promote a holistic approach to supporting SUYI neighborhood children and their families in the areas of (1) creative place-making, (2) economic opportunity, (3) the environment, (4) health care, and (5) housing, we will deepen and expand SU’s capacity to partner with the Yesler Community Collaborative (YCC), other local organizations and residents.

Goal #3: Advance our work and the field of community engagement in higher education.

Over the past decade, Seattle University has become nationally recognized for its work to connect the University and the city where it resides. We believe that we have more to contribute to other institutions and to the field of community engagement in higher education. Yet, the process of sharing our work with others begins with ongoing learning as a Center, a University and a community. By asking the right questions, by carefully using data, by utilizing efficient and effective systems of assessment and by fostering a culture of ongoing learning, we will get even better results. In doing so, we will have more lessons learned and additional promising practices to inform not just our efforts but the work of hundreds of other institutions and partnerships.

A. To inform our strategies and decision-making, we will refine and implement a thoughtfully designed data, evaluation and assessment plan.

B. To guide our dissemination efforts, we will create a plan that focuses on our particular niche in advancing the field.

C. To pursue continuous improvement, we will foster an environment among our staff and partners of ongoing learning and professional growth.
Engage SU students and faculty to serve, learn and lead for a just and humane world.

1. Recruit and mobilize students
2. Diversify student engagement
3. Track and support faculty
4. Partner with campus leaders

Build capacity for social change in our local community.

Strengthen service-learning partnerships
Deepen and expand school-based partnerships:
  - Pre-K
  - Elementary partnerships
  - Middle school partnerships
  - High school partnerships

Pursue a holistic neighborhood engagement model

Advance our work and the field of community engagement in higher education.

3. Design and implement an assessment plan
4. Share our results
5. Foster an environment of ongoing learning