REDESIGNING HIGHER EDUCATION FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

The University of Utah will be a national leader in societal impact by fostering innovation in community-engaged scholarship

The Problem & Opportunity

Faculty and students across the U are engaged in innovative and scholarly community partnerships addressing society's most critical issues, but ***our impact is limited because:***

- We are not collecting adequate data to understand and share the full extent of this work.
- University and departmental policies (e.g., tenure) and cultures disincentivize engagement.
- Our individualized, siloed approach fatigues partners and misses opportunities for larger impact.
- We lose engaged scholars to other institutions, harming partners and decreasing human capital.
- We haven't made the level of investment needed to put us at the top of our peer institutions.

The Solution

In collaboration with expert faculty and staff from across the university, we have developed ***a five-part plan that will transform the U into a top-ten university*** for social impact. This work will reestablish the U as a national leader, in line with or ahead of peer institutions such as UCLA, Arizona State University, and IUPUI known for social impact. It will also supercharge current engagement efforts like the U's new commitment to West Valley and HMHI-SLC.

Share the story of impact through a centralized data system and dashboard
Develop a centralized data hub where we can gather, analyze, and share the story of engagement and impact across the entire University.

Incentivize social impact through recruitment, hiring, promotion, and tenure systems
Adapt hiring, promotion, and tenure policies and practices in order to effectively evaluate and incentivize community-engaged scholarship.

De-silo engagement through a university-wide leadership network
Establish a body that can advance CES priorities at the campus level and support coordination, communication, and collaboration across hubs of social impact and engagement.

Invest in high-quality engaged research through seed funding and other supports
Create internal funds and supports built specifically for CES, with an emphasis on inter- and trans-disciplinary collaboration and long-term partnerships.

Expand community-engaged learning experiences for students across the U
Make high-quality, community-engaged learning and research experiences more plentiful and accessible to all students at the U.

Implementation

These five goals are interconnected. Aspects of each can be advanced separately, with different university entities taking the lead on specific goals. However, these efforts will be most effective if done in a coordinated way, which will require **a leadership position or body tasked with advancing CES systematically across the U**. This coordinated approach would decrease personnel costs by allowing one position to lead and advance the multiple priorities outlined above.

community
research
collaborative