

Community-University Partnerships to Enhance Research Impact

Mechanisms for Engagement

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CRRF Conference, October 2016



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Community Engaged Scholarship Institute

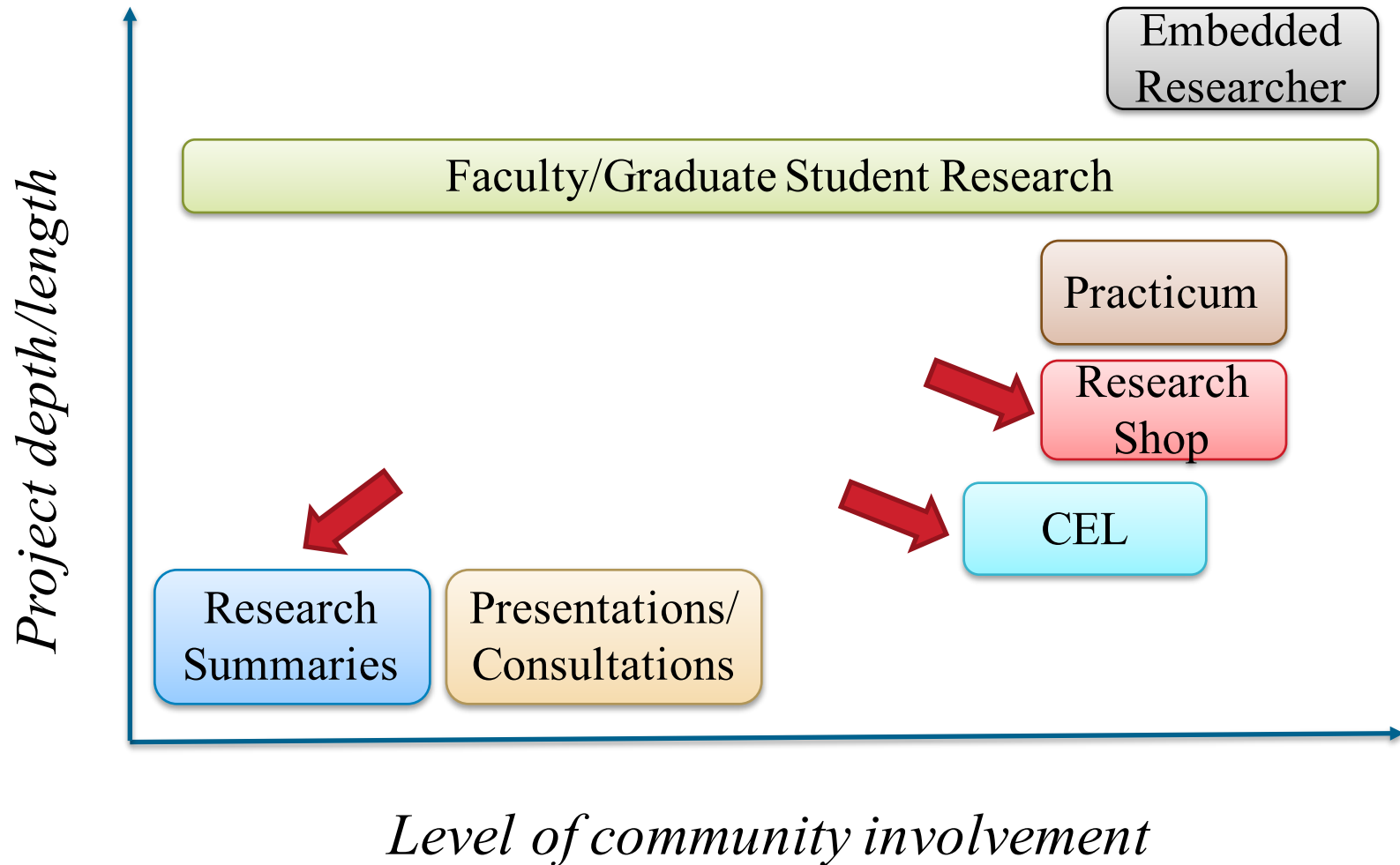
- Intermediary organization
- Works among faculty, civil society organizations, students, government, and others.
- Builds capacity for and does community engagement, knowledge mobilization, and social innovation.



Since 2009:

- 190 students
 - 75 events
 - \$1.2 million in grants
- 6 staff

Mechanisms for engagement





The Research Shop

- Works with local and regional organizations to address diverse community research needs.
- Students review existing research, conduct community-based research, and mobilize knowledge to create positive community change.



The Research Shop: Example

Community Partner: East Wellington Community Services

Research Project: Seniors Advisory Committee Needs Assessment

Methods: Survey and workshop

Impact: The goal is to help inform program priorities for the advisory committee



The Research Shop: Example

Community Partner: North Wellington Coalition for Youth Resiliency

Research Question: Program Sustainability Practices

Methods: Literature Review

Impact: NWCYR has used the strategies highlighted in this report to develop their sustainability plan.



Community Engaged Learning

- Wide range of disciplines
 - CESI supports engaged courses mostly within social science disciplines
- Undergraduate and graduate level
 - Course, practicum, independent study



CEL: Example

Community Partner:	Town of Hanover
Project:	Strategic Plan for the Hanover Community Regarding Community Engagement
Methods:	Literature review, interviews, community workshops
Impact:	The plan will serve as the basis for the upcoming strategic planning session.



Plain Language Research Summaries

- Designed to translate academic research into accessible language
- CESI-led project (2011-2013):
 - Produced 138 summaries based on UofG published research
 - Trained students to:
 - Write for interdisciplinary and non-scientific readers
 - Work with faculty to edit and produce summaries
 - Disseminate summaries broadly and maximize uptake

Community-produced videos allow communities to directly “speak” to, and influence, government decision-makers

What is this research about?

Between 19% and 30% of the Canadian population lives in remote or rural communities, which have suffered over the past few decades from declining and outsourcing of

What did the researchers do?

In 1999, a group of five Aboriginal communities in Northwestern Ontario (Keewatin Okimakank, KO) participated in a demonstration project that introduced broadband information and communication technology. In the absence of internet access, to select communities, over a 2-year period, the

In deciding to close recreation facilities, communities must balance rational economics and emotional attachment

issues facing rural communities. To understand how their policy decisions affect Canadians living in remote or rural communities. Similarly, rural/remote communities struggle with communicating with bureaucrats and providing input on government policy. Participatory video (PV) is one tool that can be used to promote the involvement of rural citizens in the development of policy. These videos are produced in the rural communities and later shown to bureaucrats and politicians to give them a better understanding of the people and communities

ed semi-structured interviews with employees who had viewed the film, to gain insight into their perceptions of the film and the impact community-produced videos have on their decision-making.

About the University of Guelph researchers:

Weather affects water quality and health in Northern communities

- What is this research about?
- What did the researchers do?
- What did the researchers find?
- How can you use this research?



Benefits of (CU) research partnerships

For communities

- Access to research expertise
- Access to resources (literature, student time)
- Often low or no cost
- Broad range of mechanisms to choose from
- Can increase legitimacy of project/results/organization

For universities/researchers

- High relevancy and impact of research
- Applied training for students
- Audiences/Participants more engaged in projects
- Higher uptake of results
- New funding opportunities
- Can lead to new collaborations



Challenges of (CU) research partnerships

For communities

- Varying researcher expertise, ability & knowledge of local contexts
- University schedules constrain project timelines
- Research ethics processes
- Time commitment & resources required

For universities/researchers

- Time involved in relationship development
- Lack of expertise in CBR methods of knowledge mobilization
- Role clarity with partners
- Project scoping (for smaller research project particularly)



Building Effective Partnerships

1. Be clear about your expectations
2. Be open about your needs
3. Know the goals of your partners
4. Expect and work through issues
5. Know what makes a good collaborator



For more information

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