



## Engaged Campus Vision

The Engaged Campus vision expands the scope of our work from a sole focus on student civic engagement to *campus-wide involvement in community partnerships*. Student community service and service-learning remain crucial to educating students for informed and active citizenship. Yet these strategies are only two of the many possible ways that campuses can and do collaborate with their communities in order to promote positive social change.

At the heart of the Engaged Campus is an active *institutional commitment to reciprocal, sustained relationships with local communities and organizations*. This commitment reflects both the specific mission of the campus and the public responsibilities of any major institution. It affects a wide range of decision-making processes, programs, and policies. It suggests the need to develop a long-term vision and short-term goals together with community residents and organizations, thereby building mutual understanding and trust.

A second key to broader engagement is *mobilization of a wide variety of human, material, and financial resources from both the campus and the community*. Many Minnesota Campus Compact member campuses have focused their efforts on involving students in community service and service-learning. Additional campus resources that could be used to support collaborative programs or otherwise strengthen communities are often overlooked or disconnected from student civic engagement efforts. Such resources might include:

| Human Resources  | Material Resources   | Financial Resources  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students</li> <li>• Faculty</li> <li>• Staff</li> <li>• Administrators</li> <li>• Alumni</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office/meeting space</li> <li>• Technology</li> <li>• Library</li> <li>• Gymnasium</li> <li>• Other facilities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchasing</li> <li>• Employee wages &amp; benefits</li> <li>• Financial aid</li> <li>• Investment funds</li> </ul> |

*Intentional, strategic coordination of community partnerships guides resources toward projects that complement and build on each other, maximizing impact on all involved*. The Engaged Campus strives to build integrated and institutionalized leadership and support for campus civic engagement efforts. This, in turn, cultivates an expectation that all people involved in partnerships will think about how to connect various projects and resources in order to maximize impact.

*Fundamentally, the Engaged Campus is a cultural orientation, rather than a set of programs*. Ultimately, the sustainability of student and institutional civic engagement efforts is determined by the cultural norms and values that encourage or discourage such engagement. Nurturing change in the culture of any campus is long-term work.

*And finally, the Engaged Campus is a process rather than a destination*. Each of the 48 colleges and universities within the Minnesota Campus Compact network has already made a commitment to community involvement. Yet an ethic of continuous improvement will challenge member campuses—and Minnesota Campus Compact itself—to attend to the ever-present possibilities for improving the quality and impact of our collaborative efforts.