

# IPACE GUIDING STATEMENT

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VS. PUBLIC SERVICE COURSES:

<p><b><u>PUBLIC SERVICE</u></b> Expertise/resources/services primarily designed by the university.</p>	<p><b><u>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</u></b> Activities that are mutually beneficial and distinguished by collaboration and reciprocity.</p>	
<p>IPACE defines <b>community-awareness</b> courses as those that include content facilitating an awareness about the multitude of factors that impact health and quality of life for individuals, families, societies or overall community wellbeing.</p>	<p>IPACE shares Barbara Jacoby's definition of a <b>service-learning</b> course, as a form of experiential education in which students engage in activities that address human and community needs together with structured opportunities designed to promote student learning and development. Reflection and reciprocity are key concepts of service-learning. (Jacoby, <i>Service-Learning in Higher Education</i>, 1996).</p>	<p>IPACE utilizes the <i>Carnegie Classification</i> definition of <b>community engagement</b>, the collaboration between institutions of higher education and their local, regional/state, national, or global communities for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.</p>
<p><b>Community-Awareness Courses may include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• guest speakers from, or site visits to community organizations designed to provide basic community understanding and/or community awareness.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Service-Learning Courses are centered around:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• student learning done in accordance with community identified needs; and</li> <li>• critical reflection built into the course objectives.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Community-Engaged Courses may include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• student projects or services with community partners or organizations that are mutually beneficial and involve an ongoing relationship.</li> </ul>

### *What do we mean by “community”?*

Communities are groups of people that can be defined geographically, socially, economically, phenomenologically, or by using other parameters. Courses that describe community engagement or working with communities, are courses that are focused on impacting the health and wellbeing of populations. To determine if the course is impacting communities directly, one must look at the overall impact on the populations.