

Community-Based Learning Partnership Conversation Guide

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching defines community engagement as a “collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. The purpose of community engagement is to share college and university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching, and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.”

As Elon faculty and staff develop partnerships with communities, they are encouraged to engage in dialogue with prospective and current community partners to create mutually beneficial relationships. The following questions are designed to assist with these conversations:

- How does this partnership prioritize reciprocity and mutual learning?
- How does this partnership create and support mutually beneficial relationships that strengthen sustainable connections between the community and Elon University?
- How does this partnership allow Elon students, faculty, and staff to assist with advancing the mission of the community partner?
- How does this partnership allow Elon students, faculty, and staff to help strengthen the community and promote positive social change?
- How does this partnership help foster a more just, equitable, and sustainable world?
- How does this partnership provide an opportunity for Elon students, faculty, and staff to gain knowledge, skills, and different perspectives from working with a community partner?
- How does this partnership provide an opportunity for Elon students to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and perspectives through working with a community partner?
- How does this partnership provide an opportunity for community partner leaders and staff, along with community members, to serve as co-educators to students in the learning process?
- How does this partnership provide an opportunity for students to deepen their learning in the area of cultural humility?
- How does this partnership incorporate a plan to assess its effectiveness?
- How does this partnership build in a way to end the collaboration if it is not mutually beneficial?