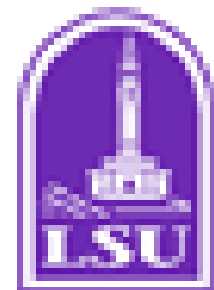




Group Process and Participatory Action Research: Is Everyone REALLY at the table? 2007

**Jan Shoemaker, Director
Louisiana State University
Center for Community Engagement,
Learning, and Leadership**



The 21st Century University...

Building Walls

Or

Building
Partnerships





Key Questions

- ◆ How can we partner with people of diverse skills, knowledge, expertise, and sensitivities to address complex public problems?
- ◆ How can we make sure all partners are REALLY at the table?

Partners or Stakeholders

- ◆ **University Institutional/Staff**
- ◆ **Faculty**
- ◆ **Students**
- ◆ **Community Partners—who are they?**





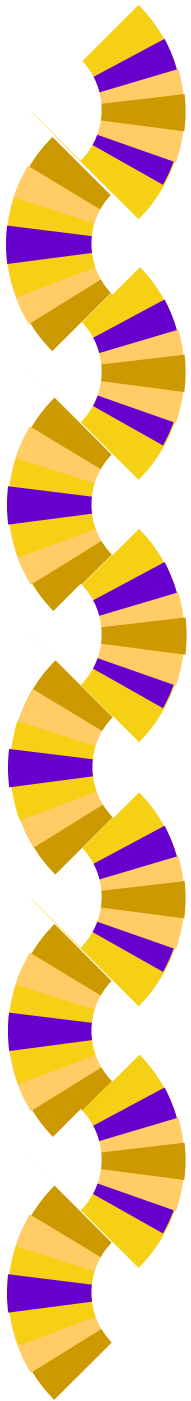
Community-University Partnerships

- ◆ **Co-curricular and extra-curricular volunteers**
- ◆ **Paid community service**
 - Federal Work Study
 - AmeriCorps
- ◆ **Service-learning**
- ◆ **Community-based participatory action research**
- ◆ **Internships and pre-professional**
- ◆ **Others?**



What is Service-Learning?

- ◆ Credit-bearing student learning experiences
- ◆ Structured service activities
- ◆ Community service goals
- ◆ University course learning goals
- ◆ Civic responsibility enhancement
- ◆ Structured reflection



What is Community-Based Participatory Action Research

- ◆ Community-based participatory action research is a *"collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. CBPR begins with a research topic of importance to the community, has the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change to improve . . . outcomes and eliminate . . . disparities."*
- ◆ W.K. Kellogg Foundation



Service-Learning Continuum

The hyphen means reciprocity.

Service ————— Learning



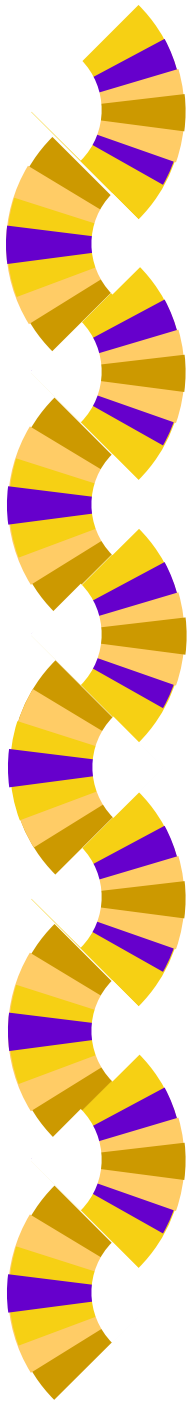
Models for Service-Learning

- ◆ Student placement model
- ◆ Deliverable project (may be research)
- ◆ Combination

Reading Tutor Placement Model



LSU English
Student Kevin
Thompson
works with
LSU interpreter



Biological Engineering and Technical Writing Projects

Students design and build playgrounds to accommodate human and environmental constraints.

Writing students write grants to fund the playground.



Combination Placement/Project



- ◆ Volunteers in Public Schools Gulf South Summit Creative Collaboration Award
- ◆ Placements in schools
- ◆ Grant proposals, brochures, fliers, advocacy writing, volunteer profiles, etc.



Key Elements of Reciprocal Service- Learning Partnerships

- ◆ Preparation
- ◆ Action
- ◆ Reflection
- ◆ Evaluation



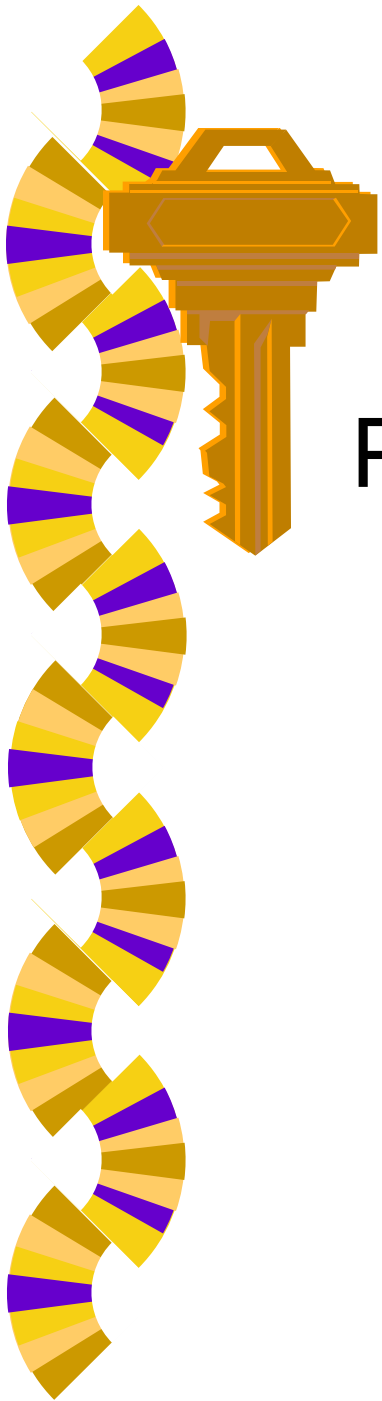
Preparation

- ◆ Choose partners carefully. Who really needs what you can deliver?
- ◆ Identify community ASSETS and needs. What format will work best for partners?
- ◆ Learn as much as you can about history, missions, goals, and related social issues of all partners.
- ◆ Clarify responsibilities and goals of partners/contracts.
- ◆ Plan so that ALL SIDES get something.



Action

- ◆ Ask community members what THEY need. Roles are reversed; they are teachers.
- ◆ Match students with needs of project
- ◆ Engage in challenging service for the common good
- ◆ Establish interim goals
- ◆ Foster sustained commitment
- ◆ Meet partners on their turf if possible
- ◆ When inviting others to campus, remind them to pick up parking permit.



Reflection

Provide structured opportunities to:

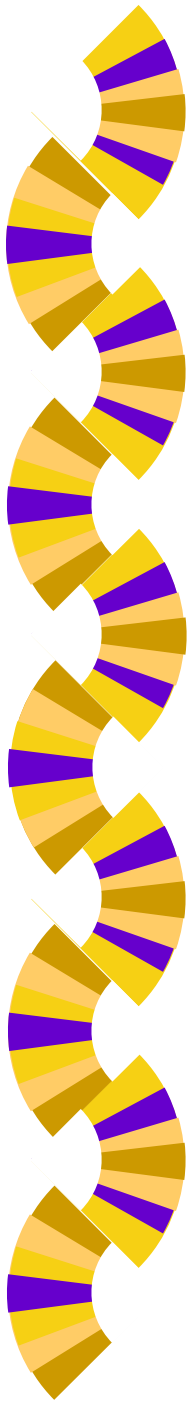
- **talk**
- **write**
- **think critically**

in order to link service with academic and civic learning.



Evaluation

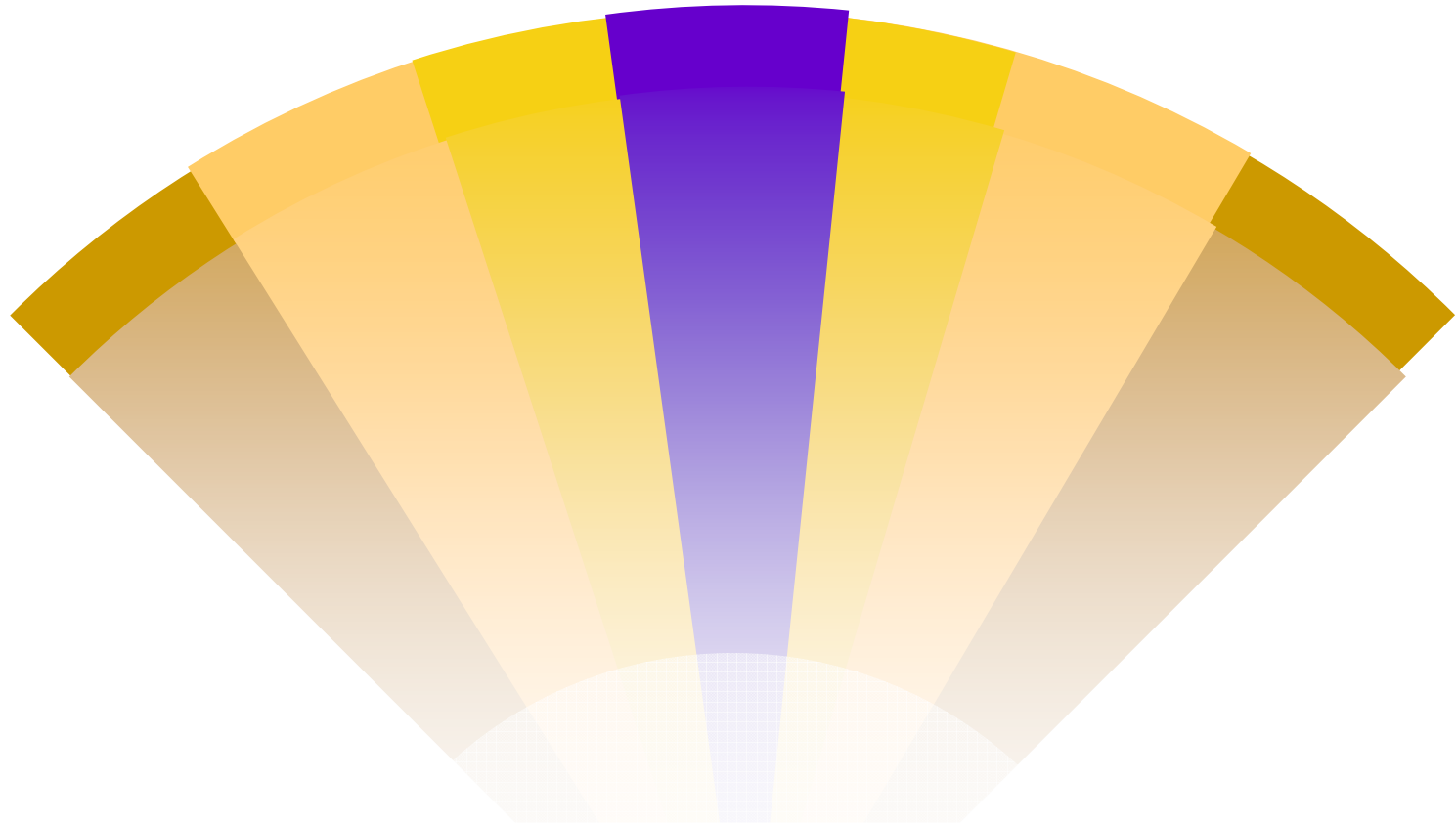
- ◆ Assess regularly how well service and learning goals are being achieved.
- ◆ Encourage civic responsibility.
- ◆ Recognize and celebrate partnership success.
- ◆ Invite partners to presentations, celebrations, evaluations



At Every Stage . . .

Be sure all stakeholders are heard.

Be sure both sides benefit.



Partnership Principles Summary

*“When the Hyphen Really
Means Reciprocity”*



Essential Elements Of Real Partnerships

- ◆ Shared goals
- ◆ Reciprocal benefits
- ◆ Balanced power
- ◆ Clear communication
- ◆ Shared resources & rewards
- ◆ Sustained commitment

How can we make these happen?



Resources:

CCPH Principles of Partnership

<http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu/ccph.html>

Campus Compact www.compact.org

Torres, editor (2000) *Benchmarks for Assessing S-L
and Civic Engagement*, p.86

Indiana Campus Compact

www.ccell.lsu.edu