Kennesaw State University:
A 2015 Carnegie Designated Community Engaged Institution

Application Background and Overview

- The Carnegie Foundation's Classification for Community Engagement was established in 2005 as its first elective classification.
- The application intends to engage institutions in a substantive process of inquiry, reflection, and self-assessment while requiring thorough data collection and documentation of important aspects of institutional mission, identity and commitments, and scope of the work throughout the institution connected with the community.
- It is an institutional classification; it is not for systems of multiple campuses or for part of a campus.
- Institutions must submit an application every 10 years detailing how their work with the community has grown both in scope and significance in order to be reclassified.

Community Engagement

- The Carnegie Foundation describes “community engagement” as the collaboration “between higher education institutions 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 connect college/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.
- At KSU, we use the umbrella term “community engagement” to encapsulate the various ways in which we connect with the community. This includes any significant connection between our students, faculty, staff, alumni and/or retirees with the larger community through volunteering, outreach, community service or other means.

Nature of this Designation

- KSU will have the designation for 10 years beginning on January 1, 2015.
- In 2025, KSU must complete a reaccreditation application and demonstrate how we recognized, deepened, and expanded community engagement work at KSU.
- The classification is NOT an award. It is an evidence-based documentation of institutional practice to be used in a process of self-assessment and quality improvement. The documentation is reviewed to determine whether the institution qualifies for recognition as a community engaged institution.
- KSU’s designation must be renewed in 2025 with further demonstration of ways the university has expanded, deepened and integrated community engagement work into all aspects of the University.

Details Related to the 2015 Selection Process

- First-Time Classification information
  - Campuses that received the application 241
  - Campuses that submitted an application 133
  - Campuses that did not receive the classification 50
  - Campuses that received first-time classification 83
  - KSU is 1 of 10 institutions in Georgia with this designation.

Next Steps

- A Faculty Committee on Community Engagement has been formed by the Faculty Senate. This committee will serve in an advisory capacity to the Executive Director for Community Engagement and assist with deepening community engagement throughout the University.