

A Proposal for a Web-Based Survey with a Team of Tennessee-Based Researchers

Introduction: A team of researchers associated with the University of Tennessee Department of Public Health (Charles Hamilton, Julie Hansen, and Margaret Knight) and College of Nursing (Carole R. Myers) and the Knox County Health Department (Julie Hansen, who has a joint appointment) has approached the Public Health Foundation (Kathleen Amos) requesting assistance in surveying the Academic Health Department Learning Community of the Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice. A web-based survey of Learning Community members would be conducted to assess the level of *engagement* between the academic partner and the public health department partner *as perceived by each of the partners*. Our goal is to use a partnership dyad as the unit of analysis and look at the level of engagement from each partner's perspective. The purpose of this proposed research is to describe the current level of engagement, and to the extent possible, describe best practices.

Background: Community engagement involves "the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in the context of partnership and reciprocity" (Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching). Engagement involves academic institutions and their larger communities forming lasting relationships that "influence, shape, and promote success" for both partners (Carnegie Foundation). Communities refer to identifiable groups of individuals that share similar locations, interests, concerns and practices.

Proposed timeline:

Task	Accountable person(s)	Due date
Discussion about possible collaboration and feedback about approach	Learning Community & Research team	July 5
Review of literature and models and frameworks for study	Research team	By August 1
Development of survey instrument	Research team	By August 1
IRB review	Research team	Begin review by August 23
Survey launch	Research team	October 1
Complete survey	Learning Community	October 1-31
Share preliminary results with Learning Community	Research team	By January 15

Purpose of discussion July 5:

- Apprise Learning Community members of proposed project
- Seek input on proposed survey
- Seek cooperation in completing the survey and reviewing preliminary findings

*Respectfully submitted by Carole R. Myers, PhD, RN, Associate Professor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
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