

IMPACTS OF COMMUNITY-CAMPUS PARTNERSHIPS

Insights from UCLA's Community Partners*

Program Development

Many partners shared that student feedback is important for program improvement and development. Community partners utilize the feedback given by students in order to make improvements to their client services and to their student and volunteer programs.

Many community partners discussed the positive client outcomes noticed as a result of the partnership including increased client socialization and confidence. Students provide a unique perspective that benefits clients in a diverse range of organizations and contexts. Students also serve as positive role models for community partner clients. Several community partners with youth client populations shared that UCLA students impact clients by serving as an inspiration and mentor.

Positive Client Outcomes

Community Building

Several community partners shared that the partnership helps to increase the organization's reach in the community. Organizations are able to make new connections with other community organizations in their communities and to expand their reach with communities that they do not yet serve.

One community partner shared that the partnership facilitates mutual learning among the organization staff, UCLA faculty, and students. This mutual learning improves the program, expands students' understandings of community needs, and decreases the power differential between clients and staff.

Mutual Learning

Partnership Models and Leverage

One community partner shared that the partnership has been valuable for providing a community-campus partnership model that can be used to create partnerships with other universities. This community partner stated that they have been able to leverage their partnership with UCLA to open doors for partnership opportunities with other universities.

All community partners shared that a major impact of the partnership is increased organizational capacity to provide direct client services. Community partners shared that extra support is always needed and students help ensure that client services continue to run smoothly and consistently.

Organizational Capacity





Curriculum Development

Five community partners shared that they would be interested in getting more involved in the classroom. They expressed interest in assisting with course design and curriculum development in addition to serving as guest lecturers for the course.

Several community partners stated that they would be interested in having students develop projects that would allow for student outreach in the community.

Advocacy & Community Engagement

Sustaining the Work

Most community partners discussed challenges relating to time constraints of the quarter, and the limiting time and number of hours that students spend at their organizations. They would prefer to see sustained partnerships with faculty and students not stand-alone courses.

Several community partners shared that having student assistance with social media and promotion for their agency would be a great benefit. Community partners would like to tap into the creativity of students with specific interests in social media and design.

Media and Promotion

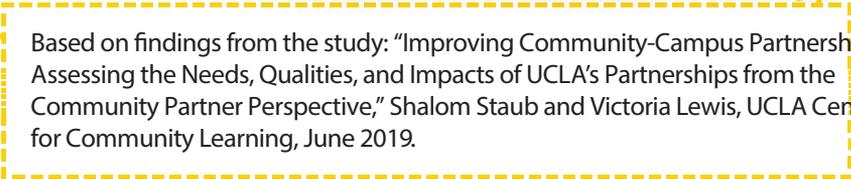
Research Projects

Many community partners expressed an interest in creating finite, manageable research projects that can be completed in one quarter. Community partners are open to student designing research questions that would positively benefit the organization. Likewise, many community partners expressed interest in research projects that could span multiple quarters or that could be completed in groups.



**DEVELOPING FUTURE
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Based on findings from the study: "Improving Community-Campus Partnerships: Assessing the Needs, Qualities, and Impacts of UCLA's Partnerships from the Community Partner Perspective," Shalom Staub and Victoria Lewis, UCLA Center for Community Learning, June 2019.

A copy of the study can be found on the "Faculty Resources Page" of the Center for Community Learning website: <http://www.uei.ucla.edu/community-learning/>