UNC Charlotte is North Carolina’s urban research university. It leverages its location in the state’s largest city to offer internationally competitive programs of research and creative activity, exemplary undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs, and a focused set of community engagement initiatives. UNC Charlotte maintains a particular commitment to addressing the cultural, economic, educational, environmental, health, and social needs of the greater Charlotte region.

The Civic Action Plan is a sustainable and long-term approach to fully activate the University’s mission to address the unique needs of the Charlotte region.

The plan provides a strategy to improve social outcomes by organizing University resources, community-based research efforts, and community collaborations to effectively address regional need through collective impact.

**UNC CHARLOTTE MISSION**

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**GOALS**

- Enhance quality of life in the Charlotte region through mutually beneficial partnerships.
- Build a culture of civic responsibility through experiential learning, community-based research, and volunteerism.
- Establish metrics and an assessment process that evaluate the collective impact of community engagement.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Establish a centralized structure, with dedicated staff, to coordinate and support the University’s community engagement efforts and assess collective impact.
- Build “Community Engagement Zones” designed as multi-year interdisciplinary university-wide initiatives with common themes and shared agendas responsive to community need.
Build "Community Engagement Zones" designed as multi-functional spaces. UNC Charlotte will design and focus on creating these zones to:

1. Recognize that UNC Charlotte is an access institution contributing to the economic and social mobility in the region.
2. Establish partnerships with Legal Affairs and Research and Development to enhance the impact of their work.
3. Work with the Office of Community Engagement to improve economic mobility in the University City area.
4. Evaluate and report on the effectiveness of Community Engagement Zones.
5. Strengthen the health and human services sector through graduate education and research in public health.
6. Achieve distinction in the critical workforce areas of K-12 education and health care.
7. Maintain leadership as one of the state’s largest sources of K-12 teacher licensure candidates, including those in high-need areas.

Community Engagement Zones will include:

- Assessment and reporting of collective impacts.
- Institutional agreements that facilitate engaged teaching and research partnerships.
- Development of local neighborhood or community outposts for delivering services to local residents in high-need areas.

As part of the University’s commitment to community engagement, the following actions are proposed:

1. Develop metrics for documenting engagement participation and assessment.
2. Increase tracking and reporting of community-based research.
4. Match skill-based volunteer opportunities with community needs.
5. Identify community needs and opportunities for the university.
6. Increase external funding for community-based research.
7. Incentivize collaborative, multi-disciplinary community partnerships.
8. Increase the number of faculty teaching service-learning courses or faculty participating in community-based research projects by providing support or recognition.
9. Recognize community engagement as an integral part of the evaluation systems in faculty review and promotion processes.
10. Integrate community engagement into the core curriculum of courses in different majors and programs.
11. Support continued participation of faculty and students in community engagement opportunities using social media and electronic communications.
12. Increase collaboration between student affairs and academic affairs.
13. Work with the Office of International Programs to expand opportunities for students to study abroad.
14. Increase the number of students who study abroad.
15. Provide professional development and resources to create a shared vision and goals.
16. Increase the number of students who study abroad.
17. Introduce community engagement into academic programs by creating a cadre of community engagement instructors to support community engaged pedagogical practices.
18. Expand the Civic Series, Personally Speaking, and other community lecture offerings like the Civic Series.
19. Increase the number of faculty teaching service-learning courses or faculty participating in community-based research projects.
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