



**Re-Imagining Campus-Community Partnerships:  
An American Democracy Project Initiative  
in Partnership with Collaboratory**

AASCU's American Democracy Project (ADP) is pleased to invite you to participate in **Re-Imagining Campus-Community Partnerships**, our next one-year initiative in partnership with [Collaboratory](#).

As Stewards of Place it is essential that our institutions engage in strong campus-community partnerships - now more than ever. As we re-emerge from the events of 2020 and move forward, how can we ensure that we create more equitable and responsive relationships? And perhaps more importantly, how can our institutions learn not just from each other, but from the communities in which they are situated? Higher education needs to better understand engagement in this new landscape and define the who, what, where, when and why of strategies, activities, and programming with and for our communities. During times of financial uncertainty and societal unrest, how do we leverage data about our campus-community partnerships to achieve common goals? How do we tell a robust story of engagement?

To support efforts to build this critical knowledge and understanding among our institutions, ADP – a network of 299 public colleges and universities, serving 2.7 million students across 48 states nationwide – and Collaboratory are launching the **Re-Imagining Campus-Community Partnerships Initiative**. Together, ADP and Collaboratory will provide the tools and resources for institutions to:

- Build a community of practitioners to help define community engagement in the new landscape and share effective strategies and approaches
- Use data to deepen work with community partners and identify the most effective community partnerships and models to address pressing issues in the community
- Better tell their story qualitatively and quantitatively
- Provide individual campus and aggregate evidence of how civic community engagement is operationalized against learning outcomes
- Identify concrete engagement trends and patterns
- Be prepared for accreditation and Carnegie applications
- Have access to centralized engagement data and reports

**Call for Participation**

ADP seeks a limited number of AASCU institutions to join a new cohort of campuses to participate in a community of practice that works towards documenting engagement initiatives. The pilot initiative will begin in Fall 2021 and any AASCU ADP-member institution may apply to participate.

## **Support and Resources**

Participants will be granted access to Collaboratory for one year free of charge, and will have access to the library of Collaboratory content and to the Collaboratory Education team. Subject matter experts who currently use Collaboratory are serving as ADP Civic Fellows and will help with project planning and support the group as thought-leaders who will advance best practices around assessing community engagement in higher education. Throughout the year, AASCU's ADP and Collaboratory will develop proposals for additional support and sustainability for participating campuses.

## **Expectations**

Each participating institution will be asked to designate a small team of at least three individuals to lead this initiative on their campus. Teams should be composed of individuals from various functional areas across campus (e.g., academic affairs, student affairs, institutional research) that have an interest in leveraging data to better inform institutional- and community-focused initiatives.

Institutions will participate in a community of practice, working together to exchange ideas and develop effective strategies, as well as provide support across institutional roles. Participants will be expected to provide updates and reflections on activities during monthly conference calls with AASCU's ADP and Collaboratory throughout the project and present their work in this project to a wider audience through the 2022 Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement meeting (CLDE22), to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from June 22-24, and through publication opportunities.

The project will launch with a Zoom meeting hosted by AASCU's ADP in collaboration with Collaboratory for participating faculty and staff. Following the launch, participants will convene over monthly Zoom sessions to share progress and lessons learned, and to discuss program challenges and opportunities.

## **Application**

Interested AASCU-member institutions should send a statement of interest to [Cathy Copeland](#) and [Felice Nudelman](#) by 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, September 3, 2021. Selected institutions will be notified no later than Friday, September 10, 2021. The first team meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, October 6, 2021 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. ET.

All statements of interest should include:

- The names, titles, contact information, and department affiliations of the designated participants
- A statement of support from the provost or equivalent

- Brief description of current structures or initiatives to support civic engagement and community service throughout your campus (e.g., centers, offices, networks, fellows)
- Description of current or aspirational tracking efforts related to civic engagement and community service
- A few words about why you are interested in participating.

We hope you will consider participating in this special initiative.

Sincerely,  
Felice Nudelman and Cathy Copeland

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