

University and Community Partnerships: Extending Boyer's Legacy beyond the Campus

Dr. Christine STEINMETZ

Lecturer - Faculty of the Built Environment, University of New South Wales -
AUSTRALIA
c.steinmetz@unsw.edu.au

ABSTRACT

The impact of a university reaches beyond the campus borders. Universities have the ability to play a significant role in the overall economic, social and cultural health of urban and rural communities. Universities can serve as a cornerstone, providing jobs, embarking on creative partnerships, and building upon an established community of people that impact and are influenced by a university. For surrounding communities, stewardship of and respect for places such as universities can exist at some level even if contact with that place is distant and removed. This paper suggests that a partnership approach is a way of creating a mutual sense of belonging between the university and the local neighbouring community. Using Boyer's model for creating campus community as a starting point the author believes that similar ideals, when applied to neighbouring communities, will have the most impact when the university is part of a collaborative network and sees them as partners and as an extension of the campus community.

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