



Missouri State
UNIVERSITY



THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION *for the* ADVANCEMENT of TEACHING

Q: What is the *Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching*?

A: The **Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching** was established in 1905 and is an “independent policy and research center. Its current mission is to support needed transformations in American education through tighter connections between teaching practice, evidence of student learning, the communication and use of this evidence, and structured opportunities to build knowledge.”
(<http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/about-us/about-carnegie>)

Q: What role does the *Carnegie Foundation* play in Higher Education?

A: The improvement of teaching and learning is central to all of the Foundation’s work. It brings together researchers, teachers, policymakers and members of organizations with common interests in education to work to invent new knowledge and to develop tools and ideas to foster positive change and enhanced learning in our nation’s schools.
(<http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/about-us/about-carnegie>)

Q: What is the *Carnegie Community Engagement Classification*?

A: This elective classification recognizes institutions for their efforts to collaborate with the community “for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.” Selection is based on the alignment of the university’s mission, culture, leadership, resources and practices in such a way that promotes community engagement among faculty, staff and students. (http://classifications.carnegiefoundation.org/descriptions/community_engagement.php#2010)

Q: What was the process for applying for the *Classification*?

A: The application was very rigorous and included all aspects of community engagement such as budgetary allocations, public scholarship of faculty, and infrastructure. Missouri State first considered applying in 2008 and the initial application was very good; however, Missouri State believed it could build on the Carnegie framework and use it to reenergize the focus on the public affairs mission. Thus, the University decided to defer applying until 2010. The 2008 findings served as motivation to spur on other initiatives within public affairs, including increases in faculty publications about engaged scholarship and a change in the faculty

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handbook to allow deans and department heads to recognize community engagement for promotion and tenure. Additionally, many reciprocal partnerships were strengthened and assessment mechanisms were reviewed. A special poll project was implemented to measure community perceptions of Missouri State's engagement and to increase community voice. The final application was spearheaded by the Office of Citizenship & Service-Learning with collaboration from deans and department heads, the administration, and numerous individual faculty and staff.

Q: Why is the *Community Engagement Classification* important to MSU?

A: Carnegie's selection of Missouri State is external confirmation of the University's commitment to public affairs. This national recognition stresses the importance of equitable partnerships in order to achieve positive engagement outcomes for students, faculty, staff and the community. These partnerships enrich Missouri State as the University works alongside Missouri citizens to achieve results that deepen the intellectual and cultural life of the community. More specifically, **for students**, it means that their MSU diploma is now a bit weightier; a prestigious research center has identified this university as being committed to community engagement. **For the community**, it underscores Missouri State's commitment to work alongside citizens to address red flag issues and to deepen the intellectual and cultural life of our region and state. **For faculty and staff**, it is evidence of their hard work to advance the public affairs mission by seeking ways to engage students and develop reciprocal partnerships to promote and benefit local and global communities.

Q: What are the next steps for Missouri State University?

A: Missouri State will need to apply again in 2015 to maintain the *Community Engagement Classification*. In the meantime, the *Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching* has indicated a few key areas among higher education institutions that need development, even among the campuses that received the 2010 engagement classification. The Missouri State application process also identified these same themes as areas with potential for improvement:

- *The need for better assessment, including tracking of positive outcomes for students and community partners*
- *More attention to the intentional practices of developing reciprocal relationships with the community, including mechanisms for ongoing feedback*
- *Increased emphasis on aligning faculty rewards with the scholarship of engagement*
- *Opportunities for campuses to develop collaborative internal practices that integrate disparate initiatives into more coherent community engagement efforts, such as first-year programs, learning communities, and diversity initiatives*

