

CCBP Council Meeting Overview — April 6, 2017

In Attendance: Samory Pruitt, Elizabeth Hartley, Billy Kirkpatrick, Amanda Waller, Beverly Hawk, Jim McLean, Safiya George, Lane McLelland, Jackie Brodsky, Jen Nickelson, Karyn Bowen, Ed Mullins, Diane Kennedy-Jackson, David Albright, Matthew Jarrett, Candace J. Skelton, George Daniels, Karl Hamner, Whitney Sewell, Sarah Saeed, CeeCee Johnson, Peter Hlebowitsh

Following is an outline of items discussed at the February 16, 2017, CCBP Council meeting.

Additional information is available online at

<http://ccbp.ua.edu/council-on-community-based-partnerships-holds-final-meeting-of-academic-year/>

Welcome and Highlights

Dr. Peter Hlebowitsh:

Dr. Hlebowitsh opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He announced that his College now has a service-grant writer, which is helping raise awareness of the Council across campus.

Dr. Samory Pruitt:

Dr. Pruitt thanked Dr. Hlebowitsh for committing so much of his time to fill Dean Francko's place as chair of the Council on Community-Based Partnerships.

Dr. Pruitt reported that:

- Community Affairs hosted its spring Board of Advisors meeting April 2–4.
 - The Board of Advisors has three core areas they are focusing on:
 - Student academic retention & success
 - Student entrepreneurship & innovative initiatives
 - Student global & community leadership.
 - Board of Advisors members have raised funds this year to support students studying abroad. They call the program "Study Away."
 - Board of Advisors members have also raised money for student entrepreneurship and innovation.
 - In terms of recruitment, the current focus is on recruiting students from rural areas and underrepresented urban areas.
- We are moving forward with the ACCESS program, with plans to display through Google docs the work the CCBP Council is doing at our next Board of Advisors meeting in the fall.

CCBP Council Committee Updates

Dr. George Daniels – Excellence in Community Engagement Recognition Committee Chair

Dr. Daniels reported that:

- This year we will combine the SCOPE Showcase with the annual CCBP Excellence Awards poster presentations and luncheon event.
- The committee has worked very hard to make sure that the CCBP awards program will be a top-notch event.

Dr. Jen Nickelson – Academic Conference and Presentation Support Committee Chair

Dr. Nickelson reported that:

- Her committee had some excellent travel award applications; four were ultimately awarded.

- Friday, September 15, is the next deadline. Please apply.
- There were great proposals for the posters, as well.
- There will be 26 posters presented this year at the annual CCBP Excellence Awards luncheon.

Ms. Amanda Waller – Community Partner Support Committee Chair

Ms. Waller reported that:

- Tuscaloosa’s One Place distributed a survey to non-profits throughout Alabama to try to figure out how to increase partnerships between universities and nonprofits.
- They have received some completed surveys and she and her team are trying to move forward with a plan from the results.

Center for Community-Based Partnerships Updates

Dr. Beverly Hawk:

Dr. Hawk spoke to the Council on the Fulbright Scholarship program, reporting that:

- The University of Alabama has 13 winners for Fulbright this year (2017–2018) and we are still waiting to hear back on three additional applicants.
- Capstone International will have a Fulbright Day Tuesday, April 11.
 - There will be events for both students and faculty.
 - Events are listed in detail on the Crimson Calendar.
- These students get to go overseas, receive a stipend, and get their federal student loans frozen.
- Most graduate programs will also give them a year’s leave if they wish to participate in Fulbright.
- There are two main areas for students: The English Teaching Assistantship, and Research and Study.
- 150 countries participate in Fulbright.
- Send applicants who may be interested in pursuing a Fulbright Scholarship to Dr. Hawk.

Dr. Jim McLean:

Dr. McLean spoke to the Council about the upcoming Grants & Sustainability Workshops. He reported that:

- During the 2016–2017 workshop, there were well over \$100 million dollars worth of proposals sent out and more than \$1 million dollars of proposals have already been funded.
- Our goal was to reach at least \$1 million dollars in funding.
- The 2017–2018 grant workshop will begin Thursday, Aug. 17 and Friday, Aug. 18. This class will cover government grants and corporate foundation grants.
- There will be a series of courses taught during the academic year.
 - The first course will focus on evaluating the grants within quality circles.
 - The second course will focus on doing the team building required to make grants successful.
 - The last course will be on fundraising and the sustainability it takes to keep a grant moving forward.
- It takes less than one page to write a paragraph on the community need you wish to address through your grant and the solution that you have in mind.
- There is a requirement to have one community partner and one university partner as your team leaders.
- There is also the opportunity for individuals to attend just the seminar itself.

- The final date for applications will be Friday, April 28.
- This class will be accepting from 6–8 teams, plus individuals. If you know individuals who might be interested, contact Dr. McLean.

Engagement Scholarship in Action

Ms. Lane McLelland:

Ms. McLelland spoke to the Council about the work done at the Crossroads Community Engagement Center. She reported that:

- They have observed during the past few years that people come to campus from many different paths, and that at times, when they meet, they don't know how to interact.
- The Center is utilizing programs that focus on communication, trust-building and relationship-building to bridge positive interactions and help people from differing backgrounds be better together, including:
 - Community service
 - Interfaith soccer team
 - Meals together following activities
 - Tuesday T
 - Sustained Dialogue course (modeled after the International Sustained Dialogue Institute)
 - Practicing Inclusive Engagement (PIE) workshops
- They have received requests from around campus and beyond for PIE workshops.
- There is a class taught for RAs every year, and the center is also working with Honors College mentors throughout each semester.
- A group from the Center has presented a workshop for medical professors at UAB as part of the new, statewide interest they are receiving.
- A group from the Center has taken their work to First United Methodist of Birmingham to help them with their work in the community.
- Paige Bolden in the Crossroads office is working with the UA Career Center to introduce the importance of these skills as professional skills.
- McLelland is researching how to challenge racist practices on campus, but also how to engage more practices on a deeper level.
- McLelland is also researching how to help people understand each other better in dialogue to have the skills you need and the appreciation for that work.

Dr. Jen Nickelson:

Dr. Nickelson spoke briefly about The Health Lab, a University/community partnership formed to address health issues in the Holt Community, and to provide opportunities for students to practice what they learn in the classroom through community-engaged scholarship.

- The Health Lab was begun with seed funds from the Council on Community-Based Partnerships in 2015–2016.
- The first task was to create a needs assessment; then examine the feasibility of expanding this initial project not only in Holt but elsewhere in Alabama, using it as a model in other low-income communities.
- Holt was chosen because it is in our own backyard and because there was an interest from the community in working with the University.

- The lab's purpose was to create a partnership in Holt; a community that was founded on industry and that was no longer thriving because of industries shutting down. The April 27, 2011 tornado that tore through Tuscaloosa County displaced many of the people who were living in Holt, and many never returned, accelerating the decline of the area.
- Following the tornado, FEMA helped community members with a long-term community plan, but noticeably absent from the recovery plan was a focus on health.
- In 2015, when the community was ready to move forward, community members worked with students to create a working draft of their mission statement. Their first meeting took place in August 2015. Community members and students participated in team-building exercises and dialogue.
- Students also developed operating norms and bylaws, as well as interviewed community members to try to understand the history of Holt.
- It was determined that the community wanted to take a holistic approach to health and wellness to promote the health of the community.
- The next steps are disseminating the findings of their survey to the community.
- Students want to work with youth to identify assets and change in structure/focus as they move toward addressing community-identified needs.
- The first two items of focus are going to be litter and diabetes.
- The longer-term dream is to open a student-run clinic in the community, perhaps in partnership with The University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing, University Medical Center, or Maude Whatley Health Center. Nickelson hopes that one day The Health Lab can be thought of as a physical space to seek health education and, eventually, receive health care that is provided at least in part by our University students.

Dr. Peter Hlebowitsh:

Dr. Hlebowitsh presented on behalf of Dr. Kagendo Mutua, director of CrossingPoints, a program devoted to education of persons with severe cognitive disabilities.

- CrossingPoints works with young adults who are students of the Tuscaloosa City and County Schools. [Editor's note: The individuals referred to during this meeting are participants in Tier 1 of this program, which works with young adults ages 18–21 who receive Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) benefits.]
- This a two-year program where students are with CrossingPoints 9 months of the year.
- They work with children who have Down syndrome, some who are on the Autism spectrum, and some who have limited communication abilities.
- They have been working very hard to secure new assets for the program.
- They recently secured a \$2.4 million grant to help bring more resources in supporting some new graduate students and new faculty members.
- Dr. Mutua is almost single handily moving this forward.
- Mrs. Betty Shirley has also been able to help us have some successes on the advancement front. Thanks to her help, we have \$1 million going into an endowed fund to help do things for CrossingPoints, such as purchase a handicapped-accessible van for the program.
- Just a few nights ago, the students performed their rendition of "The Wizard of Oz."
- CrossingPoints believes that they can expand this program even further as they move forward and make it a tuition-based program to open it up to families from around the country.
- Three main things they try to accomplish are health, dealing with sexuality concerns and being ready to take on a job.

- CrossingPoints tries to get students employed with a local establishment before they leave the program. Students then receive the dignity of work, which also helps to give them a purpose in life.

Announcements:

- The new faculty tours will take place May 10–12. The hope is to visit the social services and family services available in several of the communities in the Black Belt region of Alabama. The first day will include Greene, Hale, and Tuscaloosa counties. The next day will include Pickens, Sumter, Perry, and Marion Counties. The final day will include Wilcox, Marengo, and Dallas Counties.
- The Eleventh Annual CCBP Excellence Awards luncheon will take place **Friday, April 14** at the Bryant Conference Center, Sellers Auditorium.
- The SCOPE Student Showcase will also take place on **Friday, April 14, at 8:30 a.m.** in the Bryant Conference Center, Sellers Auditorium. There will be poster presentations and a graduate and undergraduate panel of students speaking on how they have interacted with community engagement programs.
- The Gulf South Summit will take place in Birmingham in March 2018.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.