

Council on Community-Based Partnerships Meeting – October 25, 2017

In Attendance: Carol Agomo, David L. Albright, Karyn Bowen, Jackie Brodsky, Dee Cook, Martha Crowther, Andre Denham, Andrew Goodliffe, Karl Hamner, Elizabeth Hartley, CeeCee Johnson, Diane Kennedy-Jackson, Jim McLean, Lane McLelland, Ed Mullins, Jen Nickelson, Sarah Saeed, Whitney Sewell, Chas Shipman, Chris Spencer, Maruka Walker, Justin Washington

Following is an outline of items discussed at the October 25, 2017,
Council on Community-Based Partnerships meeting.

Additional information is available online at

<http://ccbp.ua.edu/council-on-community-based-partnerships-meeting-october-25-2017/>

Welcome and Highlights

Dr. James E. McLean, executive director of the Center for Community-Based Partnerships (CCBP), welcomed those in attendance and opened the meeting.

Engagement Scholarship In Action

- Ms. Sabrina Thomas, assistant executive director at Tuscaloosa's One Place (TOP), shared information about the Juvenile Justice Re-entry Program at (TOP).
 - TOP recently received a federal grant from the office of juvenile delinquency prevention. There is one of only six programs chosen for this grant, and serves children who are in that gap between being children and becoming adults and who are returning from various types of confined placement.
 - TOP has collaborated with The University of Alabama School of Law and will have a third-year law student working with them in this three-part program on the issues of case management, legal services and mentoring. A part-time staff attorney will advise the law student regarding legal services that can be provided.
 - A case manager will be hired, and that individual will see families once each week.
 - They have found that adults who are in families with these returning youth also need a mentoring program. Because of this:
 - youth will obtain life skills and homework help
 - adults in their lives will receive help through Love, Inc., with training for job skills, budgeting and related issues.
 - Partners include:
 - Indian Rivers
 - Tuscaloosa Family Counseling Services
 - Shelton State Community College (for assistance with the GED program).
 - Their goal is to help these young people successfully re-enter society.

- Dr. McLean shared a brief update on the Gear-Up Alabama Program, which is designed to help students experience success in post-secondary education through school and career preparatory courses, as well as through peer tutoring.
 - The seven-year program is housed fiscally at UAB and the director is there, as well.
 - There are four CoPIs. Dr. McLean is one of them.
 - Dr. George Daniels is also heavily involved with this project.

- The program began with a cohort of students in the 7th and 8th grades who are now in the 9th and 10th grades.
- In addition to the work done in their schools, there is also a campus activity day that brings students participating in the program to the UA campus.
- The program works with students in 15 counties in the Black Belt region of Alabama, and many of these students have never previously visited a college campus.
- Program leaders are working to expand the program in the future to include:
 - overnight campus stays
 - career exploration with presentations from three to four colleges
 - hands-on opportunities in these areas
 - education on what it takes to prepare for these types of careers.
- Past projects include a dig at Old Cahawba and communications work.
- For more information, Council members may visit www.gearupal.com.

Council Executive Committee Updates

Dr. Martha Crowther — Proposal and Seed Funds Committee Chair

- Dr. Crowther reminded Council members that seed funds are available for faculty, staff, students and community partners. She shared application information/guidelines.
 - Her committee has been working to streamline the website application process.
 - Everyone who applies for seed funding needs to be certain that the research projects submitted are clear.
 - Applicants should include their community partner in their application.
 - Submitting a letter from the community partner with the application will also help speed the process.
 - The call for proposals is now open.
 - Those with questions may contact Dr. Crowther via email at mrcrowther@ua.edu.

Dr. Peter Hlebowitsh – Council Chair

- Dr. Hlebowitsh shared information about the Promise Neighborhood Grant, which is a series of federal grants that requires bringing together schools, police departments, community leaders, churches and synagogues, and more.
 - Based on grant criteria, it has been determined that the only agency on the UA campus that would be considered eligible for this grant is the Council on Community-Based Partnerships.
 - Talks are underway regarding putting together an application before the June 2018 deadline.
 - We are working to see if we can start putting the pieces in place to successfully secure a Promise Neighborhood Grant.
 - The University has never been through such a process before, but Hlebowitsh sees this as a real possibility for UA.
- Dr. Hlebowitsh said that he has expressed to faculty members in his college — the College of Education — that grants are not research related only, but that they can have very powerful service components.
 - He believes this is a narrative that Council members need to spread across campus.
 - He has been trying to get faculty members to look to the Council to see if they could utilize this group of individuals to think in a way that is geared toward service-related grant components. (One example given of this type of grant was the Wounded Warrior

Project Grant put together by Dr. Karl Hamner and Dr. David L. Albright from the School of Social Work.)

Dr. James E. McLean — Executive Director, CCBP

- Dr. McLean gave a brief update on the ACCESS (Alabama Centralized Community-Engaged Scholarship System) project.
 - During the last Council meeting, visitors from CAPS shared how they are developing a database that will show all of the Center’s programs occurring throughout the state.
 - In the next phase, the website will be updated to show all UA community engagement and research activity.
 - Approximately 50 percent of the projects from CCBP have already been entered into the database.
 - CCBP is building a web page where this project will reside.
 - Organizers hope to go live with this database by the first of the year (2018).

Dr. Jen Nickelson – Academic Conference and Presentation Committee Chair

- Dr. Nickelson reminded attendees that anyone who is interested in applying for travel funds can apply for up to \$1,000 through the committee.
 - These funds are for the purpose of attending a conference to receive training or to support their research.
 - The next deadline to apply for this award will be in February 2018.
 - The application process is open to community members, students and faculty/staff as long as the travel is related to a community-engaged conference or training.
 - Nickelson will be available for further questions as needed.
 - There are rubrics available to help show transparency regarding what the committees are looking for during each award funding process. These rubrics are available for download from the Council website at <http://ccbp.ua.edu/travel-funds/>.

Engaged Scholarship Updates

Ms. Carol Agomo – Director of Community and Administrative Affairs

- Ms. Agomo discussed the recent Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference hosted by Auburn University.
 - The 2017 ESC Conference took place in late September in Birmingham.
 - The conference had a record number of attendees this year — almost 600 — and continues to grow in attendance each year.
 - The University of Alabama is seeing an increased number of presentations from UA faculty and staff at this annual gathering.
 - In 2017, there were 20 oral and two poster presentations by UA faculty, staff, students and community partners.
 - More information about the 2017 ESC Conference is available on the Community Affairs website at <http://communityaffairs.ua.edu/news-archive/>.

Dr. James E. McLean – Executive Director, CCBP

- Dr. McLean gave a brief update on the community collaborative space in Capital Hall.
 - Beginning at the end of this semester, CCBP will move forward with a \$1 million renovation of additional space in Capital Hall, which will be used for student groups working with community partners.

- The overall goal is to design a creative, functional space that will facilitate communication across disciplines for students who share a commitment to community engagement.
- Six entities will initially have space in this area, including:
 - College of Communication and Information Sciences
 - College of Community Health Sciences
 - College of Education
 - College of Engineering
 - Honors College
 - School of Social Work.
- The initial contracts will support these groups for up to four years.
- There will be several indoor work areas, as well as the ability to access outdoor space when needed.
- The planning committee for this space has already met for the first time and includes student and faculty representatives from the six entities involved.
- The second meeting is expected to be set within the next month.
- All involved hope to have the community collaborative space open by fall 2018.
- The Center also hopes to have six or more offices for use by community partners.

Ms. Carol Agomo – Director of Community and Administrative Affairs

- Ms. Agomo shared information about the Schweitzer Fellowship Program, which has 15 national offices, one of which is in Birmingham.
 - The director of the Birmingham chapter reached out to the Council to help share this opportunity across campus.
 - The Schweitzer Fellowship helps graduate students interested in addressing unmet community health needs and allows them to partner with organizations across the state.
 - A number of UA and UAB medical students have participated.
 - This is a year-long program that mentors students in their research design and in carrying out their efforts.
 - The fellowship goal is not to simply propose a project, but to be certain there are actual outcomes — changes in the community — that can be assessed.
 - The application process requires the students to submit applications.
 - The Council has been asked to identify qualified students who might be interested in applying for this fellowship.
 - The application window is from November 2017 through February 2018.
 - 200 hours of service (100 in specific service activities) are required.
 - Appointments run from April–April.
 - Handouts were available for those interested in learning more.

Center for Community-Based Partnerships Updates

Dr. James E. McLean – Executive Director, CCBP

- Dr. McLean shared that CCBP has two new employees coming on board in the near future.
 - Dr. Nicole Prewitt will take over Chris Spencer’s former position as he moves on to a new position within the Division of Community Affairs.

- Prewitt will serve as Director of Programs and Partnerships for Community Engagement, CCBP, beginning Nov. 1, 2017.
- She earned her:
 - doctorate in adult and community education from Ball State University
- master of arts in education leadership from UAB
- undergraduate degree in biology, history and secondary education from Alabama A&M.
- She has:
 - served as a dean at both a 4-year and a 2-year institution here in Alabama
 - worked directly with writing and obtaining grants within the area of community development
 - an excellent publication record.
- Details of her position include working with Saving Lives, the Tuscaloosa Consortium for Higher Education, the Neighborhood Partnership Committee and possibly the Promise Neighborhood Grant.
- Ms. Sarah Saeed will begin as Program Coordinator for CCBP Operations.
 - She has already been involved in a number of programs around the University and holds a bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice and business.
 - She is on her way to earning a master's degree in social work.
 - Saeed has worked as:
 - a teacher assistant
 - a bookkeeper.
 - Saeed has worked on a number of other campus-wide programs.
 - She has already taken over a number of the duties of this position, which was previously held by Ms. Yun Fu, who retired in August 2017.
 - Saeed will come to work at the Center full-time beginning Jan. 1, 2018.

Announcements

- Save the date for future Council Meetings:
 - February 15, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. — Bryant Conference Center, Rast Room B
 - March 22, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. — Hotel Capstone, Ballroom
- Save the date for Council Awards Luncheon and SCOPE Showcase:
 - April 18, 2018 — Bryant Conference Center, Sellers Auditorium

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.