

# CAMPUS COMPACT

## INDICATORS OF ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

Historically Black  
Colleges & Universities

### Executive Summary

Campus Compact's Indicators of Engagement Project (IOEP) is exploring civic and community engagement at different types of institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). This project has found that HBCUs have distinctive approaches to engagement that differ from practices at other minority- and majority-serving institutions.

### Initial Project Findings

- Students at Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) are typically introduced to the heritage and mission of service early on in their academic careers.
- HBCUs play an important role in preparing the next generation of community leaders. Many nonprofit and government leaders who partner with HBCUs are alumni of the college with which they partner.
- A tradition of viewing service as “giving back” has led many HBCUs to institute a community service graduation requirement. Such a requirement highlights service-learning and facilitates the coordination of community-based activities on campus.
- The emphasis on giving back helps many students embrace work with younger students as a basic personal responsibility.
- The presence of dynamic and effective service-learning coordinators plays a critical role in sustaining community-based work at HBCUs.
- Presidential leadership is crucial to creating a culture of service and engagement at HBCUs.
- The culture of service and engagement at HBCUs and hiring practices that emphasize compatibility with that culture play a critical role in generating and sustaining community-based work.

### New Resources

The Campus Compact database of Model Programs at Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) is now live on our website at [www.compact.org/indicators/MSI\\_models\\_index.php](http://www.compact.org/indicators/MSI_models_index.php).

Complete project findings will be included in a book on engagement at MSIs, to be published in 2005. Information about this publication is available on our website at [www.compact.org/publications](http://www.compact.org/publications).

*“This project is important because it enables us to document and showcase best practices at Historically Black Colleges & Universities, which generally have had low visibility in spite of the great work that they are doing in their community. In many ways they can serve as models not only for other minority-serving institutions seeking to implement service programs, but for majority institutions as well.”*

-Dr. Rosalyn Jones  
Dean, Johnson C. Smith  
University and Campus Compact  
Engaged Scholar

## **Data on Civic and Community Engagement at Minority-Serving Institutions**

According to Campus Compact's 2003 Annual Member Survey, completed by more than 400 colleges and universities, minority-serving institutions (MSIs) are more likely than other types of schools to:

### **Require service and service-learning for graduation**

- 18% of MSIs require service for graduation, compared with 8% of all institutions
- 17% of MSIs require service-learning for graduation, compared with 9% of all institutions

### **Provide support structures for engagement activities**

- 96% of MSIs have a community service or service-learning office, compared with 83% of all institutions
- 92% of MSIs have a community service or service-learning director, compared with 80% of all institutions

### **Establish partnerships with K-12 schools and faith-based organizations**

- 100% of MSIs have an existing partnership with one or more K-12 schools, compared with 93% of all institutions
- 90% of MSIs have an existing partnership with one or more faith-based organizations, compared with 69% of all institutions

## **Project Goals**

The IOEP is a three-year project of Campus Compact to document and disseminate best practices of civic and community engagement at different types of colleges and universities. In addition, this project seeks to help campuses deepen their engaged practice by institutionalizing their approach to civic and community engagement. Campus Compact is a national coalition of more than 900 college and university presidents, representing some 5 million students, who are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education.

*"Permeating the heritage of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities is a deep connection with their communities. Service-learning is an organic evolution from that tradition, a contemporary expression of the commitment of 'giving back.' It is therefore not surprising that these colleges often, with more limited resources than other institutions, serve as exemplars of good practices in civic engagement."*

-Dr. Barbara S. Frankle  
Dean of Faculty  
LeMoyne-Owen College



**Campus Compact**

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