

Concept Paper (3-15-2024)

WSU's Office of Community Partnerships (Name TBD)

Committed to supporting community partnerships, services, and applied learning

Background

WSU has several grant and contract funded areas that are successful with community partnerships, including CEI and PPM. Many other WSU faculty, staff, and students are interested in and seek opportunities for partnerships by utilizing existing offices focused on community engagement, outreach, and connection. For example, KSU's Office of Engagement was recently established [https://www.k-](https://www.k-state.edu/engagement/)

[state.edu/engagement/](https://www.k-state.edu/engagement/) In addition, the University of Oklahoma's Outreach is another example in the region <https://outreach.ou.edu/>

Purpose

Establish the WSU Office of Community Partnerships to serve as a backbone support collaborative hub of community focused WSU departments, faculty, and students.

## Structure & Staff

The Office of Community Partnerships will be led by administrative staff with a strong history of community partnerships as listed below. As Associate VP for Community Partnerships, Scott Wituk, PhD will report to Shirley Lefever, PhD, Executive Vice President & Provost. Staff and community departments listed below (Core Team) will report through the Associate VP for Community Partnerships.

### Administrative Staff

- Scott Wituk, PhD, Executive Director of the Community Engagement Institute and Associate Vice President for Community Partnerships
- Misty Bruckner, Director of the Public Policy and Management Center and Assistant Vice President for Community Partnerships
- Heather Perkins, Director of Finances and Operations, Community Engagement Institute
- Additional staff will assist with communications; proposal/grant development; financial budget support; HR liaison, including forms, processing and payroll
- Student employment and applied learning opportunities will be identified as appropriate

### Core WSU Departments, Faculty, and Staff

The Office of Community Partnerships will serve as the reporting structure for WSU departments with a history of community service and partnerships. Initially, we are proposing that these include CEI and PPMC. Once the infrastructure is in place, we would work with leadership to identify potential departments, centers or offices that meet the strategic goals of the University to bring a more coordinated effort as it relates to community outreach, projects, partnerships and relationships. In addition, this Office could serve as the logical location for new departments, centers or offices that have a community

Partnerships will provide a supportive partnership structure for their interests and development as described above in Goals and Objectives. Given their different needs and interests, affiliated WSU Departments, Faculty, and Staff may have different reporting structures.

Interested departments, faculty and staff will

Communications and Marketing Establish a website and social media presence that is consistent with WSU Communication guidelines, including highlights in WSU News, social media, and community outlets. Work with Strategic Communications to communicate and market internally and externally.

Coordinate with Timely WSU Community-Focused Efforts. Coordinate with Wichita State Connect, WSU Bio-Med Facility, and/or other efforts as to how the office can provide support and partnerships.

Affiliated WSU Departments, Faculty & Staff Launch affiliated partnerships with WSU departments, faculty, and staff.