

The Power of Engagement

**Dr. David E. Procter, Director
Center for Engagement and
Community Development**

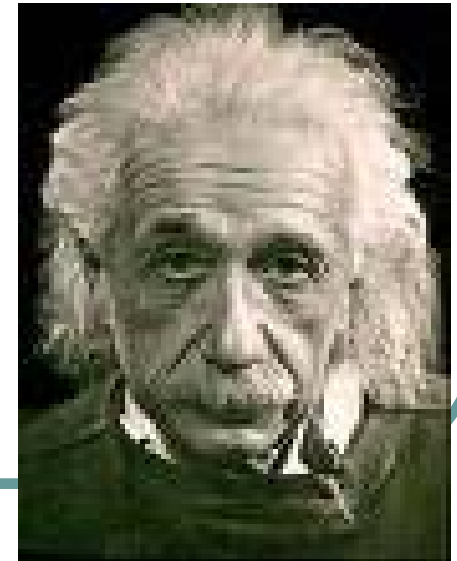
The Power of Engagement

- From Mahatma Gandhi
 - “You must be the change you wish to see in the world
 - “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others”



The Power of Engagement

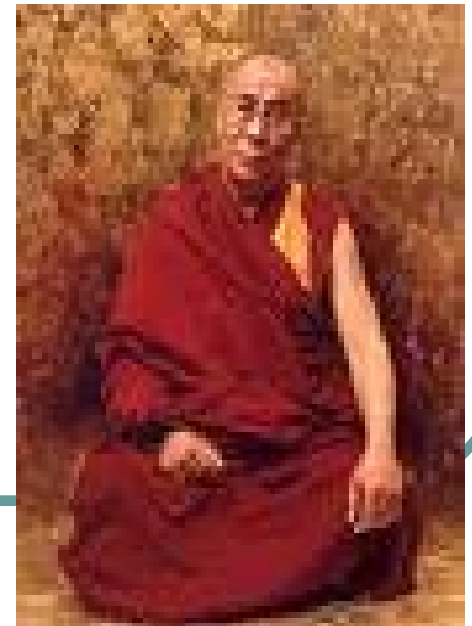
- From Albert Einstein
 - “Only a life lived in the service of others is worth living.”



The Power of Engagement

- From the Dalai Lama

- “No one can afford to assume that someone else will solve their problems. Every individual has a responsibility to help guide our global family in the right direction. Good wishes are not sufficient; we must become actively engaged.”



The Power of Engagement

- From Provost Nellis
- “As a Land Grant University, K-State has, as one of its fundamental missions, the application of research, teaching, and outreach for the betterment of the quality of life for the citizens of Kansas. The degree to which universities accomplish is captured in the term ‘engagement.’”



The Power of Engagement

The Center for Engagement and Community Development's Definition of Engagement

Engagement occurs when collaborative scholarship (researching, teaching, and outreach) is directed toward a public need and when the relationship between campus and off-campus partners is reciprocal and mutually beneficial.

The Power of Engagement



Today's problems are complex like the Gordian knot – calling for cooperation, coordination and bold action among multiple stakeholders. Working in partnership with others give us the best opportunity to find solutions to society's problems

The Power of Engagement

Individual Benefits From Engagement

- Those individuals who possess a quantity and quality of relationships, those who serve others have an improved quality of life. Research indicates that engaged individuals possess greater happiness, greater life and work satisfaction, improved health, and longer life.

The Power of Engagement

Getting Personally Involved

- Individual volunteerism
- Service learning
- Civic involvement
- Working with social service agencies
- Connecting with the Center for Engagement and Community Development

The Power of Engagement

K-State Benefits From Engagement

- Through engagement we become a healthier university by achieving and extending the Land-grant mission

Power of Engagement

- Two recent higher education publications talk about the importance of engagement
 - In 1999, the Kellogg Commission produced a report on the future of state and land-grant universities entitled, “Returning to our Roots: The Engaged Institution”
 - In 2002, NASAULGC wrote white paper entitled, “The Extension System: A Vision for the 21st Century”

The Power of Engagement

Community Benefits From Engagement

- Communities benefit enormously from engaged people working together. In addition to solving community problems, the more neighbors know one another, the less crime a neighborhood will suffer. A child born in a state whose residents volunteer, vote, and spend time with friends is less likely to be born underweight and less likely to drop out of school

Robert Putnam

Better Together (2003)

The Power of Engagement

- **Engaging Public Issues**
 - **Economic Development**
 - **Civics and Civility**
 - **Engaging the Arts**
 - **Public Health**

The Power of Engagement

The Center for Engagement and Community Development: A Site for Engagement

