

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

April 15, 2022

*Co-Chairs:*

**Beth Del Genio,**  
Chief of Staff to the President

**David A. Milling,**  
Senior Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs

 **University at Buffalo** The State University of New York



## Subcommittee members:

- **Beth Del Genio**, Co-Chair, *Chief of Staff to the President*
- **David A. Milling**, Co-Chair, *Senior Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs, Associate Professor of Medicine, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences*
- **Hadar Borden**, *Director of Blackstone LaunchPad*
- **Meelin Chin Kit-Wells**, *Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatric and Community Dentistry, School of Dental Medicine*
- **Nathan Daun-Barnett**, *Associate Professor and Chair of Educational Leadership and Policy, Graduate School of Education*
- **D'Ann Keller**, *Senior Associate Athletic Director, Senior Women's Administrator*
- **Ophelia Morey**, *Coordinator, Community Outreach Services, University Libraries*
- **Tess Morrissey**, *Former Director of Community Relations, Deputy Director of State Relations, Government and Community Relations*
- **Kyria Stephens**, *Director of Inclusion and Community Initiatives, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus*
- **Lillian Williams**, *Associate Professor of Africana and American Studies, College of Arts and Sciences*

# CHARGE AND BACKGROUND



# Subcommittee Charge

*“The subcommittee on community engagement will address UB’s community engagement mission by seeking ways to further collaborate with university partners and neighbors in the community to promote and support diversity, equity and inclusion.”*



*Freedom Walk during the Igniting Hope conference in August 2021 presented by the African American Health Equity Task Force, the Buffalo Center for Health Equity and UB’s Community Health Equity Research Institute.*

# Statement of Values

*As a university community, we commit to deepening our engagement in the region by further partnering with our local community to contribute to the social, cultural and economic vitality of Western New York. To be successful in these endeavors, our engagement efforts must be grounded in the principles of inclusion, diversity and social justice and conducted ethically through mutual collaboration with our partners.*

## Principles to guide our work

- Collaborative
- Inclusive
- Educational
- Active Listening
- Trust Building
- Partnering
- Adding Value
- Impactful
- Sustainable

# Background Observations

- UB has a range of community focused programs and initiatives that addresses social and racial justice, but broader visibility of those efforts may be lacking.
- Community engagement efforts may lack the supporting infrastructure for meaningful and sustainable community engagement work.
- Successful community engagement is grounded in a culture of trust between the university and communities we serve, especially historically marginalized communities.



*Jacobs' School students work with the Community Health Fair at Hopewell Baptist Church.*

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



# Key recommendations

## 1. Enhancing Visibility and Coordination; Assessing our Progress

- **Enhancing Visibility and Coordination**
  - University's central digital hub
  - Consistent language when talking about "community engagement"
  - Facilitation and organization of community engagement-centric learning opportunities
  - Community Engagement Advisory Board
  - Community Engagement Annual Report
  - Encourage external community voices
- **Meaningful Assessment**
  - Comprehensive assessment tool to determine efficacy



*UB's Archaeological Survey co-sponsors Community Archaeological Days where attendees can observe an archaeological excavation and learn about the history of Buffalo's Michigan Street Baptist Church.*



# Key recommendations

## 2. Support Structures; Resources and Recognition

- **Support Structures**
  - Community engagement micro-credential
  - Community engagement orientation
- **Resources and Recognition**
  - Community engagement grant program and award
  - Consider engaged scholarship in promotion and tenure



*UB's School of Dental Medicine hosts the annual Give Kids a Smile Day where children ages 2-18 receive free dental care.*

# Key recommendations

## 3. Building a culture of trust between UB and the community

- Re-establish the community's "front-door" with the renovation of Allen Hall
- Support and encourage the expansion of K-12 pipeline programs for traditionally underrepresented students



*Allen Hall on UB's South Campus*

# IMPLEMENTATION



# Mechanisms for Implementation

## 1. Enhancing Visibility and Coordination; Assessing our Progress

- **Enhancing Visibility and Coordination (responsible entity in parentheses)**
  - University's central digital hub (Community Relations)
  - Using standardized language for “community engagement” (University Communication official standardized language)
  - Facilitation and organization of community engagement-centric learning opportunities (Community Relations, Office of Micro-Credentials)
  - Community Engagement Advisory Board (Community Relations)
  - Community Engagement Annual Report (Community Relations)
  - Encourage external community voices (Community Relations, Academic Deans)
- **Meaningful Assessment**
  - Comprehensive assessment tool to determine efficacy (Office of Institutional Analysis)

# Mechanisms for Implementation

## 2. Support Structures; Resources and Recognition

- **Support Structures**
  - Community engagement micro-credential (Community Relations, Office of Micro-Credentials)
  - Community engagement orientation (Community Relations)
- **Resources and Recognition**
  - Community engagement grant program and award (Office of the Provost)
  - Consider engaged scholarship in promotion and tenure (Office of the Provost, President's Review Board)



*UB medical students with UB HEALS (Homeless health, Education, Awareness and Leadership in Street medicine) hold a foot clinic at Holy Cross Shelter in downtown Buffalo.*

# Mechanisms for Implementation

## 3. Building a culture of trust between UB and the community

- Re-establish the community's "front-door" with the renovation of Allen Hall (Office of the President and Capital Planning)
- Support and encourage the expansion of K-12 pipeline programs for traditionally underrepresented students (Decanal Units)



*Dr. Henry Louis Taylor Jr., Dr. Tim Murphy and UB medical and architecture and planning students talk with residents on Buffalo's East Side about issues in the community.*