

Celebrating in Community Engaged Learning

II. Evaluation and Celebration

- a. Students
 1. Principle 1 – Emphasize success rather than failure.
 2. Principle 2 – Deliver recognition in a personal and honest manner. Avoid providing recognition that is “too” slick or overproduced.
 3. Principle 3 – Tailor your recognition and reward to the unique needs of the people involved. For example, through students’ written reflections
 4. Principle 4 – Timing is crucial. Recognize contributions throughout a project. Reward contributions close to the time an achievement is realized. Time delays weaken the impact of most rewards.
 5. Principle 5 – Strive for a clear, unambiguous and well-communicated connection between accomplishments and rewards. Be sure people understand why they receive awards and the criteria used to determine awards.
- b. Importance of recognition
 1. Recognizes successes and positive impact on students learning and in the in the community
 2. Keeps student motivated
 3. Encourages lifelong service and civic engagement
 4. Fosters partnerships with community organizations
- c. Ideas to celebrate with students and partners (and faculty):
 1. Participants may develop a website, video, scrapbook or newsletter documenting the community engaged learning process. Those involved may offer personal insights and inspirational writings and reflection about the community engaged learning project.
 2. A school or community display with a spotlight on those who made community engaged learning a success. The display can be a bulletin board in the school, local grocery, convention and visitor’s bureau, library, city or town hall or even chamber of commerce.
 3. Nominating participants for local awards and scholarships. Many national retailers offer awards for student volunteers.
 4. Hosting an event such as a breakfast, coffee or luncheon event honoring the participants. You might do this in conjunction with final presentations.
 5. Awards, certificates, t-shirts, flowers or any other type of simple public recognition.
 6. Invite your community partner organizations to the last day of class. Let them participate in presenting OR help grade presentations by students OR just feed them punch and cookies!
 7. Community residents might appreciate a certificate thanking them for their role in the class.
 8. If there is a budget from the department, purchase an Office Depot (or similar) gift card that they can use to support their organization.
 9. If you feel your faculty member did an outstanding job on this class, look for ways to acknowledge them and encourage students in the class who agree to do the same. Should they get an ASUU or departmental teaching award?