



## LUTHER K. SNOW

CONSULTANT, AUTHOR, FACILITATOR AND CREATOR OF ASSET MAPPING

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### UNIVERSITY ENGAGEMENT

#### Collaborative research, learning, and development

There's a quiet convergence happening around institutions of higher education. It goes beyond service learning, beyond community relations, and beyond traditional development. It leads us to exciting innovations in research and learning, to positive new institutional dynamics, and to significant new development opportunities. What I see at the confluence is Engagement.

I've participated in these trends in every role and perspective, from university administrator to community partner, from academic researcher to economic developer. I share these lessons and facilitate campus collaboration with you for the benefit of faculty, staff, students, business, government, and community stakeholders. Here are some recent examples of this kind of work:

#### **Dean's Fellow, Texas Tech University.**

- Trained the faculty and staff of the College of Design in *asset-based approaches in the field of Design*, and facilitated the development of *positive, open-sum action* within the faculty and between the College and the community.
- Trained and facilitated College of Education faculty and select community leaders associated, generating *positive community education partnerships*.
- Consulted with the Deans of both Colleges and officials in Admissions and Development.

#### **Distinguished Speaker, Cornell College**

- Trained and facilitated the staff of the interdisciplinary Civic Engagement Group around *academic, organizational, and economic strategies* arising from their work.
- Coached the Dean of the College on strategies for *funding and financing Engagement in a rural context*.
- Delivered a campus-wide lecture for the Community, Agency, and Action Lectureship Series, entitled, *The Larger Whole: What We Learn About Justice from Networks*.
- Presented a workshop for students in the Leadership Program, focusing on *positive leadership skills for network collaboration*.
- Taught a special session for a class in Urban Community, focusing on *innovative grassroots approaches to inner-city development challenges*.

#### **Organizing Facilitator, Baltimore Avenue Corridor Coalition**

- Facilitated the *key initial dialogs* of a unique gathering of several community congregations with the University City District of the University of Pennsylvania, for a project sponsored by Partners for Sacred Places.
- Helped diffuse tension between the university and the community and lay a foundation for positive collaboration, resulting in tangible projects and funding.

**SEEING THINGS FROM THE PARTICIPANT'S POINT OF VIEW**  
**Luther Snow's diverse roles and practical experience with University Engagement**

**As a student participant:**

*Harvard College.*

- *Kennedy School Institute of Politics Internship.* Recognized for community-based project organizing a rent strike to enforce living conditions in inner-city neighborhood.
- *Phillip Brooks House Internship.* Staffed the Somerville Tenant Union, and conducted community action research on condominium conversions that led to *magna cum laude* Senior Thesis.

*University of Chicago Graduate School of Business (now Brooks Chicago School of Business)*

- *John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Internship.* Administered and helped establish the \$3M Chicago Giving Program at the inception of the foundation. Developed new techniques to incorporate business school financial methods for non-profit grantmaking.

**As a university official**

*DePaul University. Egan Fellow with the Egan Urban Center.* Designed and managed partnerships with inner-city Latino community, and facilitated mutually beneficial projects with faculty and administrative units. Developed funding and wrote grant for the nation's first Level III designation under the federal Community Outreach Partnership Center initiative.

**As a community partner:**

*Bethel New Life, Inc.*

*Community Workshop on Economic Development,*

*Chicago Association of Neighborhood Development Organizations*

- Developed and managed internships and apprenticeships with area colleges and universities and with the Seminary Consortium on Urban Pastoral Education.
- Lead top-level policy and development partnerships with area corporations, state and city government, and universities including the University of Illinois at Chicago, DePaul University, Northwestern University, and the University of Chicago.

**In academic research:**

- Co-author, *Civic Engagement in Higher Education: Reflection, Power, Evaluation, Risk Management*, with Campbell, Hamerlinck, Kim-Han, Morton, and Pribbenow, Campus Compact, 2007.
- Conducted community-based action research in partnership with academic faculty at Harvard University, University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago, Loyola University, and Northwestern University.
- Researched and evaluated university-sponsored partnerships between community groups and local elementary and high schools at DePaul University.
- Authored, "The Community's Perspective on the Land Development Process," in *Challenging Uneven Development: An Urban Agenda for the 1990s*, ed. by Philip W. Nyden and Wim Wiewel (Rutgers University Press, 1991).
- Moderated and contributed to *Campus in Community Online Civic Dialogues* for Campus Compact.

## **Teaching and training**

- As the Dean's Fellow at Texas Tech University, trained and facilitated the faculty and staff in the College of Design, and trained faculty and community partners in the College of Education.
- As a Distinguished Speaker at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, trained college officials, faculty, and civic engagement staff, and taught classes of college students.
- Guest speaker in college and university classes at the University of Iowa, Luther College, University of Chicago.
- Partnered with 3 liberal arts colleges to train 200 high school youth at the Michigan Youth Symposium.
- Taught college and high school youth in school-based economic development with Chicago Cities in Schools.
- Trained membership of the Texas Institute of Architects, including four university Deans, and incorporating planning around university research and student engagement.
- For Campus Compact, facilitated students, faculty and staff at Middlebury College.
- Registered the largest class ever for a distance learning course sponsored by Andover Newton Seminary.
- Trained seminary students, faculty, staff, and community partners as Keynote speaker, Rural Ministry Conference, Center for Land and Theology, Wartbury Seminary.
- Trained seminary students, faculty, staff, and community partners as consultant to Ev. Fachhochschule (Lutheran University of Applied Sciences), Nuernberg, Germany.
- Trained seminary students, faculty, staff, and community partners as consultant to Det Teologiske Menighetsfakultet, Oslo, Norway.

## **As an economic developer**

- Directed the nation's two largest municipal coalitions of community economic development organizations, with university partners and sponsors.
- Consulted with, trained, and developed funding for statewide and regional associations of rural economic development organizations, with sponsorship and leadership by community colleges, rural liberal arts colleges, and public land grant universities.
- Trained low-income community entrepreneurs for a university-based economic development center in Iowa.
- Named "one of the top five rural development experts in the nation" by statewide associations.
- Keynote speaker to state, regional, and national development organizations, including the National Association of Rural Economic Developers.
- Author, "Economic Development Breaks the Mold: Community-Building, Place-Targeting, and Empowerment Zones," *Economic Development Quarterly*, May, 1991.
- Author, *The Power of Asset Mapping: How Your Congregation Can Act on Its Gifts*. Alban Institute, 2004.
- Author, *Community Transformation: Turning Threats into Opportunities*. Asset-Based Community Development Institute, Northwestern University, 2001,
- Author, *The Organization of Hope: A Workbook for Rural Asset-Based Community Development*. ABCD Institute, Northwestern University, 2000.

**As a foundation grantmaker**

- Staffed the grantmaking process and managed foundation grants to area colleges and universities for the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.
- Author, *Convergence: Academic Relevance, Business and Institutional Development, and Community Learning*," report for the Ford Foundation, 2001.
- Director of Organization Learning for the Blandin Foundation, Minnesota.
- Developed training material and trained staff and community leaders for the Northwest Area Foundation, northwest states.
- Developed training material and trained staff and community leaders for the Ford Family Foundation, Oregon and California.

**Serving with elected officials**

- Served as liaison between community interests and University of Chicago, as Chief of Staff to a Chicago Alderman.
- Facilitated Strategic Planning for the City Council of Sioux City Iowa, incorporating the roles of five colleges and universities.
- Facilitated Planning and Development Task Force of Corpus Christi, Texas, incorporating the roles of 8 colleges and universities.