



Winona State University

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs • 211 Somsen Hall • Winona MN 55987 • Ph: (507)457-5010

April 8, 2014

The Carnegie Foundation
For the Advancement of Teaching
Application for Renewal of WSU's Community Engagement Classification

Dear Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to renew our proud status as a Carnegie Community Engaged Campus!

The mission of Winona State University is to enhance the intellectual, social, cultural and economic vitality of the people and communities we serve. We offer undergraduate programs based on the traditions and values of the arts and sciences and an array of graduate and professional programs that are especially responsive to the needs of the Upper Midwest. We prepare our graduates to serve generously, lead responsibly and respond imaginatively and creatively to the challenges of their work, their lives and their communities. Truly, the Winona State University lives its mission: "A Community of Learners Improving Our World."

As the new Provost at Winona State (since July 2014), I have been astounded at the level of integration and engagement the university community enjoys with the Winona and Rochester communities. Founded in 1858, Winona State University (WSU), the oldest higher education institution in Minnesota and the first normal school west of the Mississippi River, has developed into a vibrant institution embodying the spirit and essence of a regional comprehensive university that primarily serves a traditional student population. The main campus is located in southeastern Minnesota in the beautiful Mississippi River bluff country and shares its campus grounds with the island community of Winona.

WSU-Rochester is located in the state's third-largest metropolitan area, one noted for its concentration of healthcare, technology, and educational institutions and serves a large population of non-traditional students that provides a unique "laboratory" for many of our distinctive community engagement programs. In 2017, WSU-Rochester will celebrate its 100th anniversary of serving the community of Rochester, Minnesota!

As you read our application to renew WSU's classification as a community engaged campus, you will find numerous examples of our ongoing work since our last classification approval. Outstanding services such as our Cardio Pulmonary Rehabilitation (see video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmKIN7CfERw>) program that helps cardiac and cancer patients in our Winona community return to health through exercise. Or the partnership we enjoy in Rochester with the Hawthorne Learning Center and Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center. Through our on-site Community Training Clinic with these centers, students provide supervised counseling for the community and gain hands-on learning experiences necessary to excel in a variety of counseling fields. Or peruse our University magazine, *Currents* (<http://currents.winonastateu.com/>), and find evidence of ongoing and ever changing examples of community engagement.

Community engagement is definitely institutionalized and sustained at WSU. One need only look to the Retiree Center (<http://www.winona.edu/retiree/>) to see that the University community not only lives its mission and supports community engagement, but our community employees also take their commitment to the university and the community into retirement! I know I can always count on members of the Retiree Center to help with events, strengthen university connections within the community, and lead community initiatives that involve the university to improve the lives of all of us on the island of Winona and surrounding area. A great example is in the Arboretum and Land Stewardship project. This project, overseen by a committee of university and community members (<http://www.winona.edu/alluniversitycommittees/alsc.asp>), is engaged in mapping all of the tree specimens on campus and building an app that uses QR codes (<http://www.winona.edu/it/campusoftrees.asp>) to provide detailed information on each species. This group has also worked with students to design and plant demonstration native prairie gardens and has proposed a new volunteer corps, the Friends of the Arboretum, in order to be more fully engaged in the community, model sustainability, and share our arboretum with the community and visitors as a huge laboratory for learning (<http://www.winona.edu/President/strategicinitiatives.asp>).

We are clearly committed to engagement with the establishment of the Engaged Teaching and Scholarship Committee now known as the Learning and Community Engagement Committee (LaCE). The group has been active since 2007 and is responsible for, among other things you will note, choosing the university themes for each academic year.

In 2013, the new President began his Hopes and Dreams work to kick-start new strategic planning for the University. From that work, he formed three committees and tasked each with specific charges based on five value areas: People, Programs, Place, Pride, and Price. You will note that "Place" includes planning for community engagement

(http://www.winona.edu/president/Media/Call_for_Initiatives.pdf). From this work, we will craft our 2014-2020 long-term strategic planning documents and work plans for each year.

Amazing! WSU-Winona and WSU-Rochester serving and engaging communities since 1858 and 1917! I am confident that the following application will provide the Foundation with detailed and solid evidence-based examples of a university that lives its mission and enjoys tremendous connection with its communities.

I thank you for the opportunity to renew our well-deserved status as a Carnegie Community Engaged Campus. The faculty and I are honored to share our story with you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia L. Rogers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patricia L. Rogers, Ph.D.
Provost & Vice-President
Winona State University