



## **Community Partnership Guidelines at Central Washington University**

Central Washington University (CWU) aspires to live in to its vision to become a model learning community of equity and belonging. To accomplish our mission to build a community of access and opportunity, CWU seeks to foster high impact practices, sustainability, and authentic community partnerships that are grounded in meaningful relationships.

Engagement is the first core value of CWU's Institutional Strategic Plan, in which we seek to nurture authentic relationships built on mutual respect, responsibility, and reciprocity. The following institutional-wide engagement goals and initiatives outline CWU's priorities for the next several years.

**Goal 1:** Amplify and elevate the university's relationship with local and regional communities.

- Initiative 1.1: Integrate our strategic planning and activities with the cities within Kittitas County and with the county as a whole, as well as with other cities and counties in our region.
- Initiative 1.3: Cultivate a partnership with the Yakama Nation and other regional tribal nations built on meaningful, ongoing consultation, collaboration, and cooperation.

**Goal 2:** Partner with nonprofit organizations, businesses, tribal agencies, governmental agencies, and other entities, as well as with individuals, to increase opportunities for students.

- Initiative 2.1: Create an Institute for Civic and Community Engagement that partners with SLICE to expand community partnerships to provide experiential learning and civic engagement opportunities for students.

**The following principles and guidelines help support our campus community with leading the university's institutional commitments to developing and maintaining lasting community partnerships that are reciprocal and mutually beneficial.** We encourage CWU staff, faculty, and students to reflect on current community relationships and explore opportunities to build a more cohesive, sustainable, and resilient community for all. As community builders, we seek to

promote a strong sense of belonging, foster a supportive and inclusive environment, and establish a deep connection to the broader community that will inspire mutual growth.

### **Guiding principles for mutually beneficial community partnerships:**

- Convene community groups and members to identify needs and challenges and develop measurable goals to help ensure all involved mutually benefit from meaningful outcomes.
- Demonstrate transparency, humility, authenticity, and mutual respect.
- Establish pathways for securing feedback from community members on a consistent basis.
- Conduct a community partnership assessment to measure progress and evaluate opportunities to improve reciprocity among partners.

### **Guidelines to ensuring reciprocal and mutually beneficial community partnerships:**

- Promote mutual respect and reciprocity by recognizing and valuing each other's contributions and involvement.
- Practice active listening and be willing to explore new ideas and perspectives.
- Foster a supportive community by building trust and encouraging and supporting one another. Support community partners by promoting activities and events to your networks.
- Communicate with honesty, openly, and consistently to encourage transparency.
- Cultivate empathy by practicing humility, incorporating compassion, and leading by example.
- Promote kindness and resolve conflicts amicably.
- Welcome and value all community members, embrace diverse perspectives and people from all backgrounds, and engage in inclusive decision-making processes.
- Prioritize initiatives based on the needs, goals, challenges, and opportunities shared between community partners and the university.
- Inform, involve, consult, collaborate, and empower community members during the development and implementation of initiatives, projects, and activities.
- Share outcomes resulting from partnerships and collaborate with community partners to discuss and identify opportunities to strengthen mutual beneficial partnerships.