

FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: UTSC Campus Affairs Committee

SPONSOR: Andrew Arifuzzaman, Chief Administrative Officer
CONTACT INFO: 416-287-7108, andrew.arifuzzaman@utoronto.ca

PRESENTER: Kimberley Tull, Director, Community Development & Engagement
CONTACT INFO: 416-208-2797, kim.tull@utoronto.ca

Melanie Blackman, Coordinator, Community Development
416-287- 7687, m.blackman@utoronto.ca

DATE: October 19, 2020 for October 26, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 2

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Annual Report: Community Partnerships and Engagement and CARES COVID-19 Response Update

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Sections 5.1 and 5.9 of the UTSC Campus Affairs Committee Terms of Reference states that the Committee receives annually, from the appropriate administrators, reports on services within its areas of responsibility, including relations with the campus's external community.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. UTSC Campus Affairs Committee [For Information] (October 26, 2020)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

No previous action in governance has been taken on this item.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Over the past several years, the University of Toronto Scarborough has shifted its institutional culture so that faculty, staff, and students see themselves as civic actors within the larger community. With our community partners, we have developed a unique and successful **reciprocal-learning community development approach** that has tremendous potential for transformational change, locally and profound implications for community/university work across the country. The approach is a collection of principles, values and practices rooted in equity, ethical responsibility, values-based

and asset-based community development practices. It focuses on the university and the community understanding each other's priorities and values and creating place-based action plans that meet both pedagogical needs and local social change agendas.

As reflected in our five-year strategic plan, *Inspiring Inclusive Excellence*, one of our strategic directions (*Inspiring Inclusive Excellence*, *Strategic Direction 4.3*) is to continue to expand local, national, and international collaborations with partners across various sectors that help to integrate real-life experiences into the curriculum, create opportunities for co-learning, and facilitate co-creation of knowledge. Our work continues to ensure that community voice and knowledges are embedded in all aspects of the university - decision-making tables, classrooms, curriculum, student experience etc. This year's community partnership and engagement report *It Starts with a Conversation* has a new digital format and focuses on these four key areas:

- Relationship Development
- Community Support & Sponsorship
- Access & Outreach
- Research & Knowledge Mobilization

As well, in alignment with our anchor institution strategy and community partnership values, we have been responsive and engaged in addressing food justice issues for those in the Greater Toronto Area during the COVID-19 pandemic. In April 2020, we established, CARES (Collective Action and Response for Everyone in Scarborough) – a food repackaging and distribution centre to address food insecurity for local people in the Eastern Greater Toronto Area.

This report will highlight key institutional community partnerships involving placed-based community and impact investing, inclusion and economic impact, knowledge equity and mobilization and access and transition.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Presented for information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- Community Development and Engagement Update (PDF plain text)
- Report - <https://www.utoronto.ca/partnerships/>

PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Collaboration is at the core of everything we do. We can only be successful if we ensure that we have a multiplicity of voices actively involved in our decision making. By working together across communities, across departments, and across disciplines, feasible ideas emerge that enrich our knowledge and improve our collective results. Our work is a co-created process, which enabling all participants to dedicate the time, the insights, and the energy needed to support a mutually rewarding partnership. We begin the discussion early to understand our shared objectives and needs, and dig deep so that we address any power imbalances and, hence, foster a truly collaborative relationship.



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
SCARBOROUGH



We aim to improve access for communities facing systemic barriers, build relationships and support those communities, and use our campus strengths to mobilize knowledge in the community and beyond.

Here are just a few examples of our recent partnerships:



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
SCARBOROUGH

PARTNERSHIPS AND RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- Scarborough Studies Zine Workshops
- Department of Management's Engagement with the Community

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP

- 416RISE
- UTSC Campus Farm and Community Engagement: *Gardener Connection: Sharing Farming Knowledge and Practices on Ethnocentric Crops*

ACCESS & OUTREACH

- TDSB Unleashing Excellence: Early Planning for High School and Post-Secondary
- Access Programming: Day in the Life
- City of Toronto Crisis Response Community Events: Versatile Tamil Dance Event and Community Basketball Tournament
- TDSB Walk of Excellence
- Black Governance & Leadership Project
- Community Engagement at the AA&CC

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

- Community Knowledge Learning Hub (CKLH)
- Deconstructing the Ivory Tower: Building Community-University Partnerships between the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus and Local Communities
- Integrated Learning Experiences
- Concept Paper: *The Reciprocal Learning Community Development Approach*

