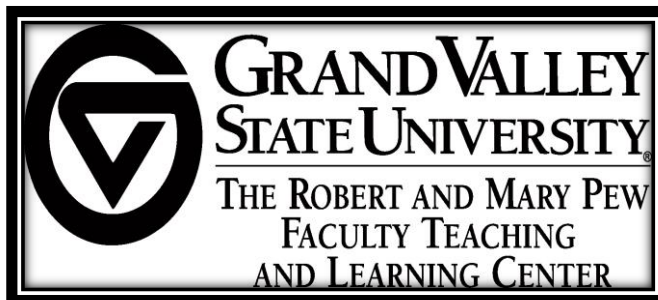# Community-Based Teaching "Best Practice" Recommendations

In an effort to move community engagement forward at Grand Valley State University, the following best practices have been developed by a team of GVSU faculty in the winter of 2014 to clarify ideals and practices for those active in this work.

ADMINISTRATION	COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION	STUDENTS	FACULTY
INCENTIVIZE Faculty: Resource, Recognize, and Reward these efforts. **PREPARE**: Intentionally prepare faculty for "working with" community partners from the beginning. Emphasize reciprocity & mutuality. **SUSTAIN**: Explore & engage sustainable models for *long-term* community impact.	**RECIPROCATE:** Agree to work with GVSU faculty and students recognizing that community-based learning (CBL) is "Messy Inquiry." Emphasize reciprocity and mutuality. **ASSESS** needs and develop achievable goals together.	**REFLECT**: Build reflection opportunities on the service learning activities *throughout* the course. **CREATE, INTEGRATE, & PRESENT**: Encourage students to do creative assignment presentations, integrating community work with course content & student values/future goals.	**PREPARE** students for "working with" community partners from the beginning. Emphasize reciprocity & mutuality. **EXPERIMENT**: Prep students for experimental nature of work. community-based learning is "Messy Inquiry." **SCAFFOLD** community engagement activities so students can build on their own and others' initial efforts. **CELEBRATE** the work accomplished (reward engagement). **ASSESS & EVALUATE** *community partners'* perspective & students' learning iteratively.

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