

Reversing the Telescope

Community
Development *Within*
Colleges and
Universities

New England Resource Center for Higher Education
and Brandeis University

Impetus

- NERCHE's work on institutional responses to service and civic engagement
- Themes through other service related initiatives e.g. Wingspread Declaration
- High profile efforts – e.g. the living wage campaign at Harvard

Mel King, Professor Emeritus MIT, former director of the Boston Urban League

“I don’t believe in this movement for community building if we don’t have community building within the institution of higher education. For me, there are many, many examples of problems in the institution that replicate the problems in the very communities they would dare to think they can change and build. And if we aren’t doing that on the inside, then I don’t believe we can do it on the outside.”

Project Goals

- Conceptualize
- Identify examples
- Meet with key organizations

Language

Lawrence Katz, study of low wage workers at Harvard, focused on

- parking and security
- janitorial and facility
- dining services

Additional elements

- Full or part-time non-student employees
- Paid hourly
- Most often not overtly connected to the mission of the institution

Other influences

- Business sector notions about investments in human capital
- Annie E. Casey's ideas about community development and anchor institutions
- Continued thinking about “civic engagement,” “democratic education”

“Community Development Within”

Captures current notions

Allows for a broader way of thinking about
engagement

Program Examples

- University of Hawaii
- Harvard University, MA
- Emerson College, MA
- Middlebury College, VT
- Swarthmore College, PA
- Regis University College, CO
- Brandeis University, MA

Program Examples con't

- Middlesex Community College, MA
- University of Vermont

Program Types

- Educational – often involving students
- EAP's
- Other HR based programs

Issues

1. Why ?
2. In what ways can institutional business strategies be linked to institutional civic engagement plans?
3. How can campuses influence vendors?
 - EAP? Food service? Maintenance?
4. Where do unions fit in?
5. What is the role of intermediary organizations?

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All material from this session will be on my
website