University-Community Collaborations for Local Impact
(for Sustainable Community Development)

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Global Forces, New York State Focus

- Migration & Demographic Change
- Educational Maturity/Persistent Gaps
- Segregation, Opportunity & Choice
- Food, Energy & Housing - Land Use
- High Infrastructure Costs

- Inequality of Opportunity, Fiscal Stress, Sustainable Communities
Old and New Model

• University faculty expertise generates information and then distribute to constituencies

• True Collaboration
  • Give and Take – two way street
  • Recognizing and Using Different Expertise
  • Problem Solving in Local Contexts
  • Live the Impact

• I’ve done this both ways
Examples (Hundreds across campus)

• *Rust-to-Green*

• Informed Decisionmaking

• Contentious Controversies (Fracking & Solar)
  • Carve out a space to learn amidst controversy

• Nutrition and Parenting Education

• Potable Water, Productive Farming

• Tax Policy, Shared Services, Immigration, Outmigration

• Legal uncertainties
Quick Story

• “Troubled community”
• Power and Democracy (public elections and Local Board)
• Allegations of Racist School Board, Anti-Semitism in Community
• Allegations of Theft of $20 million by Board Members
• “Anything short of the FBI arresting the Board is a failure”
• Allegations of OCR violations – stealing $ from Minority children in favor of Hassidic Jews
• Lots of Animosity and Yelling (Google and Youtube)
• Tripling of Dropout Rate, Skyrocketing Special Education and Transportation Costs, Fiscal & Democratic Disaster
NY State called Cornell

• A Plea for Help and Expertise
• 22 months of study and real progress
• All indicators in right direction
• Looming Budget Vote
• Struck a deal
• Override the Tax Cap
  • Ultra-Orthodox wins 14 days of Transport when public schools are closed
  • Public wins extra $3.7 Million for program
• Feeling good
Voted down 90%-10%

• Both Sides rejected the deal
• Public Advocates – “It’s not all about the money, you didn’t involve us”
• Hassidic - “Why should we vote to tax us so much if the public side doesn’t want this?”
• Facing a cut of $2 million in public school program ($5 million dollar mistake)

• Why did I share this?
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• We’ve got two days of examples, challenges and successes.
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Global Forces, Local Focus

Many examples

Let’s examine Forces, Focus & Collaborations