

## Colleges Recognized for Community Engagement

February 2, 2009

Wagner College and the University of Scranton have been awarded the Community Engagement Classification by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

According to the Carnegie Foundation, "Community Engagement' describes the collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity." Through an extensive voluntary application process, the Carnegie Foundation recognized universities for success in Curricular Engagement (the connection of teaching, learning and scholarship to community); Outreach and Partnership (the extent of focus of institutional resources on community collaboration); or both. Wagner and Scranton were among 119 institutions awarded the Community Engagement classification this year.

Numerous examples of Wagner College's depth of engagement include:

- A unique curriculum model, the Wagner Plan for the Practical Liberal Arts, that includes community service components for all first-year and senior students
- A total of 80,000 hours invested each year by Wagner's students in a wide variety of general and special-focus community activities
- A roster of Wagner community service partners that includes 33 community agencies, two churches, three nursing homes and five public schools
- Two consecutive annual citations from the White House Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction for exemplary service efforts and service to disadvantaged youth
- The designation of a full-time, professional staff position in Wagner College's Center for Leadership & Service, which coordinates the college's many community engagement activities

The University of Scranton's community engagement is also integrated through the curriculum at Scranton, and includes:

- Thirty-three percent of Scranton students participate in classes with a service-learning component, and eleven (42 percent) of the University's academic departments have a service learning requirement
- Students participating in the university's Business Leadership Program have worked on a Capstone Project developing a marketing plan for Lourdesmont (a non-profit adolescent treatment center) and providing an economic impact study for the Employment Opportunity and Training Center
- Pre-med program participation, as one of only six undergraduate programs in Pennsylvania, in the Physician Shortage Area Program of Jefferson Medical College intended to increase the number of family physicians in rural area of Pennsylvania and Delaware.
- Programs at the Leahy Community Health and Family Center, which includes participation by 23 faculty members and more than 100 students, including the "Peacemakers Program" for elementary school children, the Autism Playgroup, counseling services, and a free clinic serving the uninsured of

Lackawanna County.

For more information on the Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement classification, visit their **WEB SITE**.