

Senate Community Engagement Committee 2025-26 End of Year Report

Chair: Jennifer Lucarelli (SHS)

Members:

- 2023-2026 Faculty Appointments - Rachel Smydra (CAS); Lynda Poly-Droulard (SON); Jason Overfelt (CAS) At-Large.
- 2024-2027 Faculty Appointments - Dave Dulio (CAS); Kwame Sakyi (SHS); Virginia Uhley (SOM); Jennifer Lucarelli (SHS); Nick DiPucchio (CAS).
- 2025-2028 Faculty Appointments - Amy Rutledge (SBA); Suzanne Klein (SEHS); Tiffany-Janelle Calderon (SON) At-Large; Anne Switzer Zacharias (UL).
- Student, Staff and Ex-Officio Appointments - Allison Drzewiecki (Student Congress); Song Yan (Director of OIRADA or Designee);
- Jennifer Anderson (Director of Community Engagement); Emily Morris (Communication and Marketing Designee); Amy Banes-Berceli (EVPAA Designee); Dr. Tonya Bailey (SOM Designee)

During the 2025-2026 academic year, the Senate Community Engagement Committee met monthly to move forward the following initiatives:

Community Engagement Awards:

- The committee reviewed criteria, put forth the call for nominations, reviewed nominations, and selected winners of the faculty, staff, and community partner community engagement awards.
 - Faculty - The Kevin J. Corcoran Faculty Community Engagement Award - **Cecilia Saenz-Roby**, Associate Professor of Spanish, Modern Languages & Literature
 - Staff - The C. Robert Maxfield Community Engagement Award - **Zachary Tse** - Housing
 - Community Partner - The Thomas Kimble Community Partner Award - **Alba Carlos**, La Casa Amiga.
- The Committee also established criteria for the Jean Ann Miller Student Community Engagement Award, hosted a call for nominations, developed a subcommittee to review nominees and select an award winner.
 - Student - The Jean Ann Miller Student Community Engagement Award - Isabel Abdal, School of Health Sciences
- The committee discussed adding a graduate student community engagement award next year named after Glenn McIntosh.

Faculty Community Engagement Initiatives

Two initiatives were launched to further faculty involvement in community engagement.

- The Community Engagement Fellows program provides a faculty member with dedicated time to develop and implement initiatives that provide support, mentoring, and other assistance to colleagues across campus. They will coordinate their work with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) and the Research Office.
 - **Deidre N. Hurse**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Foundational Medical Studies for Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, will serve as the inaugural Community Engagement Faculty Fellow for the 2026-27 academic year.

- Community Engagement Champions “The purpose of establishing a network of Community Engagement Champions at OU is to grow the overall community engagement enterprise. Our goal is to increase the number of students, faculty, and staff who engage in community-engaged work, whether through community-engaged teaching, research, or service.” Seven faculty were selected and will participate as Champions beginning Fall 2026. They include:
 - **Meaghan Barry**, Associate Professor of Graphic Design and Chair of the Department of Art and Art History Chair, CAS
 - **Maria Beam**, Director of the Social Work Program, CAS
 - **Doug Carr**, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Master of Public Administration Program, CAS
 - **Michelle Hammond**, Professor of Management, SBA
 - **Tim Hodge**, Associate Professor of Economics, SBA
 - **Bill Solomonson**, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Organizational Leadership, SEHS
 - **Greg Thrasher**, Associate Professor of Management, SBA

Staff Community Engagement Leave Policy

Our committee worked to support development of the new Community Engagement Leave policy that allows eligible OU employees to take up to one paid day (8 hours) annually to volunteer in the community. This policy will be effective as of July 1, 2026.

Promotion and Tenure language

Our committee worked to move forward suggested edits to Oakland University's Tenure and Promotion guidelines that integrate Community Engagement in teaching, scholarship, and services, in alignment with the university's mission and strategic plan. While this policy has yet to be adopted, we anticipate a decision in the upcoming academic year.

Give Pulse

Our committee regularly discussed the use of Give Pulse as a data collection tool to support documentation of community engagement by students, faculty, and staff. We have discussed challenges with using the tool and opportunities to support broader utilization of Give Pulse across the university.