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# Sustaining Ourselves and Our Community Commitments in Challenging Times

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# Thank You



# Path Into Civic Engagement

Responsibility

Purpose

Commitment

# Fitchburg State University - Steward of Place

An anchor institution and steward of place  
(public and private partnerships and the  
development of an educational ecosystem)

# **Fitchburg State University *IS* a Statewide Leader in Institutional Civic and Community Engagement**



# Civic Learning at Fitchburg - LAS

“Preparing graduates for their public lives as citizens, members of communities, and professionals in society has historically been a responsibility of higher education” (AAC&U Civic Engagement VALUE Rubric). Fitchburg State University has embraced this calling through its mission to foster “civic and global responsibility.” The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education has also called upon campuses to incorporate civic learning as an expected outcome for undergraduate students. This Civic Learning outcome and requirement is designed to ensure students will take courses that prepare them to be informed citizens contributing to a diverse society.

# Engaged Scholarship

Engaged scholarship is the co-creation of knowledge that shifts the position of students and community groups from knowledge consumers to knowledge producers and partners in problem-solving. Engaged scholarship is the generation of new knowledge through the combining of academic knowledge and community-based knowledge, eliminating a hierarchy of knowledge and a one-way flow of knowledge outward from the college or university.

# The Courage to Engage

*The Courage to Teach* builds on a simple premise: good teaching cannot be reduced to technique but is rooted in the identity and integrity of the teacher.

Good teachers share one trait: they are authentically present in the classroom, deeply connected with their students...these connections are held in the teacher's heart--the place where intellect, emotion, spirit converge in the human spirit.

Good teachers weave a life-giving web between themselves...and their students, helping their students learn how to weave a world for themselves.

Parker Palmer

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# Sentipensante (sensing/thinking) Pedagogy

- The deeper, relationship-centered essence of education
- The balance between education for academics and educating for life
- A transformative vision of education that emphasizes the harmonic, complementary relations between the sentir of intuition and the inner life, and the pensar of intellectualism and the pursuit of scholarship; between teaching and learning; between Western and non-western ways of knowing.
- A pedagogy that encompasses wholeness multiculturalism, and contemplative practice' that helps students transcend limiting views about themselves; fosters high expectations; and helps students to become social change agents.

Laura Rendon



# Teaching To Transgress

Progressive, holistic education, “engaged pedagogy” is more demanding than conventional critical or feminist pedagogy. For, unlike these two teaching practices, it emphasizes well-being. That means that teachers must be actively committed to a process of self-actualization that promotes their own well-being

Thich Nhat Hanh emphasized that “the practice of a healer, therapist, teacher...should be directed toward [their] selves first, because if the [teacher/researcher] is unhappy, [they] cannot help many people

bell hook, p. 15



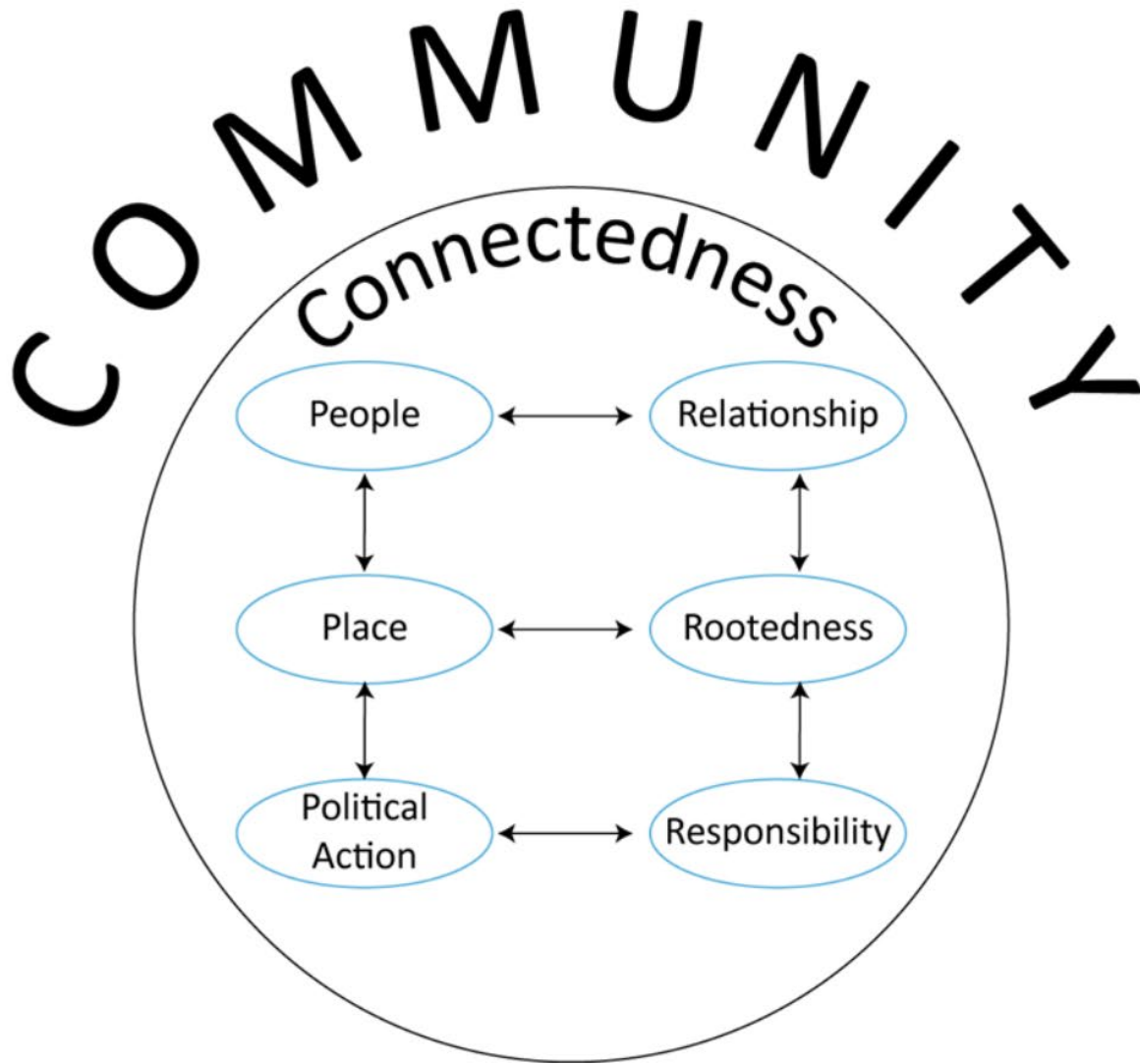
# Women's Ways of Engagement - Ward, 2010

Faculty motivation for community engaged scholarship is shaped by both individual characteristics and institutional characteristics.

Colbeck & Michael, 2006

Integration over compartmentalization of faculty work - faculty work as a whole cloth with threads of service, research, and teaching woven together to create many different patterns and textures of intuitive, multidimensionality yet integration of the whole





**Diagram 2. Community-Engaged Context**

# Purpose

Public narrative combines a story of self, a story of us, and a story of now.



*Public Narrative*

Marshall Gantz, Harvard



# Clarifying Our Purpose, Setting Our Course

How is the current moment is shaping your professional identities, community engaged commitments, practices, and relationships?

What sustains you in this work?

# Institutional Support for Sustaining You in Your Work

Acknowledgement

Legitimizing

Infrastructure

Reality Over Rhetoric

# Ernest A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty

[Campus Compact](#)



# Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement





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