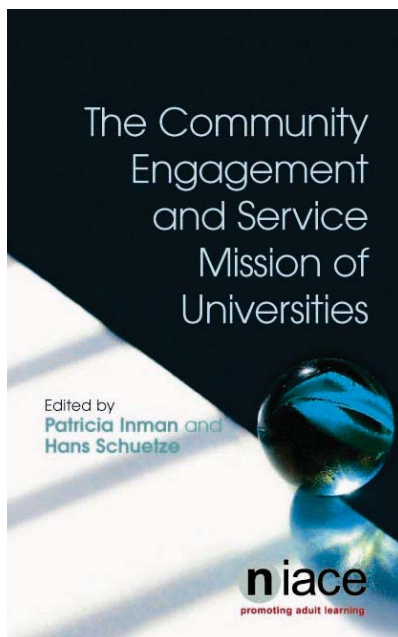


The Community Engagement and Service Mission of Universities



Edited by Patricia Inman and Hans G. Schuetze

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The untapped energy of universities and other institutions of higher education to address regional issues seems endless. Issues less defined by political boundaries and increasingly defined by place call for a new type of engagement. Generating knowledge with communities rather than for communities contrasts sharply with traditional university attitudes that offer expertise rather than appreciation of indigenous knowledge. This highly topical book addresses the widespread discussion about the regional community function of universities, with particular emphasis on economic and social development, discussing the challenges of engagement, but also the possibilities. Developing policy with such a worldview requires new skills focusing on developing relationships and facilitating collaboration. Finding common ground between diverse stakeholders requires innovation and a new set of tools. This book discusses the obstacles to collaboration and provides strategies for addressing these.

Essential reading for international researchers, practitioners and policy makers concerned with higher education and government, the book provides a foundation for understanding the concepts of both regional policy and engaged higher education institutions. In addition to the theoretical insights gained into the new relationship between universities and communities, the text also illustrates the theory with experiences and innovative examples from well-known institutions of higher education..

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The community engagement and partnership of universities, sometimes termed alternatively their "third mission" (besides the first two missions, teaching and research), is not an entirely new theme, yet it has come again to the fore and renewed attention of policymakers, university leaders, and international organizations¹ (OECD 1983; OECD 1999; OECD 2001; Inman and Schuetze 2010).² There are a number of questions that need clarification: What is meant by "third mission" activities or "community service"? What type of activities are included? In *The Community Engagement and Service Mission of Universities* edited by Patrica Inman, and Hans G. Schuetze, 33-49. Leicester: National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE). Google Scholar. Edquist, Charles. UNIVERSITIES THIRD MISSION: COMMUNITIES ENGAGEMENT B-HERT POSITION PAPER NO. 11 June 2006 The purpose of the Business/Higher Education Round Table (B- HERT) is to pursue initiatives that will advance the goals and improve the performance of both business and higher education for the benefit of Australian society. Third Mission funding goes beyond supporting extension programs and community service. In practice Third Mission activities of universities seek to generate, apply and use knowledge and other university capabilities outside academic environments.