

Supporting Community Engaged Scholarship

Massachusetts Campus Compact
Professional Development Series

Margaret A. Post, Ph.D.

February 17, 2010

Purpose of Today

1. Set context of why deepening engagement can be responsive to impact of economic crisis
2. Brainstorm resources, tools and potential projects for deepening community partnerships through research collaborations
3. Develop strategies for working with/building up capacity in CBL/SL offices for such work

“The Current Economic Crisis as Catalyst for Deepening University Engagement”

Patrick Green, Mathew Johnson & Margaret A. Post

Purpose

How can the current economic crisis be a catalyst for deepening the role of engaged colleges and universities?

Data Collection

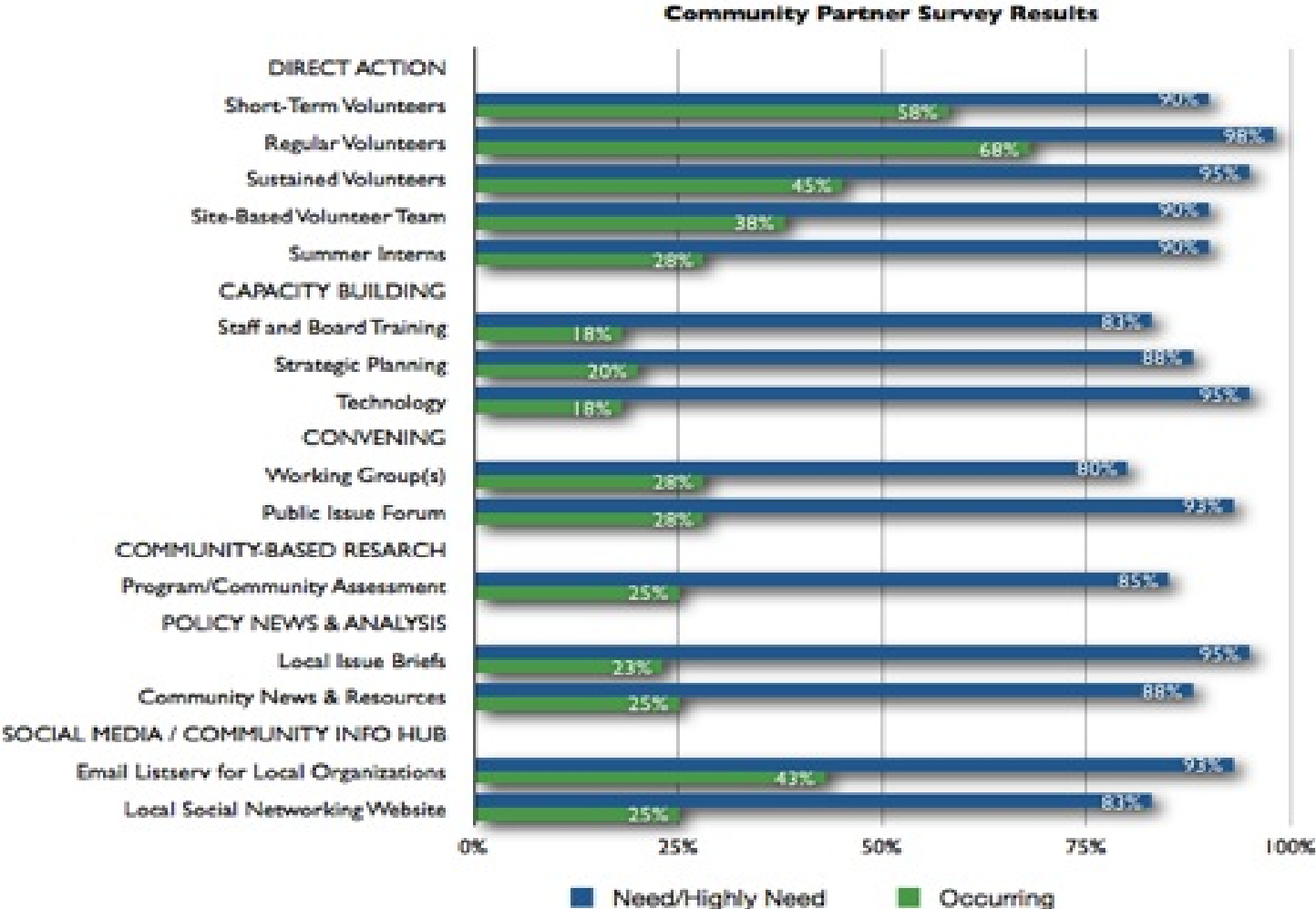
Bonner Foundation Survey (N=35)

Semi-structured interviews with community partners in 3 cities (N=25)

Inquiry

- How the economic crisis has affected “anchor “campus-community partnerships
- What the immediate knowledge and service interests of those partnerships are
- Ways in which HE can respond to needs and interests given a context of crisis

Bonner Foundation Data



Summary of Survey Findings

- 6 Categories:
 - Direct Action
 - Capacity Building
 - Convening
 - Community – based Research
 - Policy News & Analysis
 - Social Media/Community information
- *Gap between types of work that is occurring and what organizations need and want**

Themes from Community Partner Interviews

1. Demand for service has increased, while staff resources are limited
2. Changes in funding stream with reduced grants and corporate sponsorship
3. Core mission work with emphasis on responding to increased acute needs and daily operations
4. Reorganization involving staff changes and programmatic shifts
5. Building capacity through partnership

Recommendations

1. Engage in community-based research projects
2. Facilitate more research connections with faculty
3. Provide sustainable project support for longer duration
4. Build multilayered connections between CBOs and colleges and universities

Implications of Findings

- Beyond “urgency of acute needs”
 - Capacity building and systems change
- Preserving institutional viability while cultivating innovation
 - Mission critical priorities that maximize resources
- Collaborative Problem Solving

Promoting Sustainable Practices

- Mutually beneficial and reciprocal relationships
- Co-creative and co-educative
- Interdependence
 - *Interdisciplinary, interdepartmental, interrelational*
- Alignment of interests and resources to achieve effectiveness (asset-based)

Structure & Strategy in Partnership

- “Mission critical” priorities
 - Campus and community partners
- Tradeoffs between structure and function to facilitate process and achieve goals
 - Clarity of purpose, roles, and responsibilities
- Adaptability
- Maximizing resources
 - What resources do we need to accomplish our goals?
- Coordinate and Evaluate