The Carnegie Foundation's Classification for Community Engagement is the Foundation’s only elective classification, meaning that it requires a voluntary application process by institutions. It is supplemental to the Foundation’s main category. Utah State University (USU) is currently undergoing a year-long application process for the 2020 classification. The classification is not simply an award; it requires extensive, evidence-based documentation of institutional practice to be used in an ongoing and forward-looking process of self-assessment and quality improvement for community engagement. Successful applicants must demonstrate that community engagement permeates the institution in mission, identity, and commitments.

How does the Carnegie Foundation define Community Engagement?

“Community engagement describes 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.

The purpose of community engagement is the partnership of college and university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.”

Why is USU pursuing the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification in 2020?

As a Land-Grant institution, USU has woven community engagement into its mission statement, campus framework, and institutional goals. The USU General Education mission is to prepare Citizen Scholars who participate and lead in local, regional, national, and global communities.

The pursuit of the Carnegie Classification enables us to become more intentional and systematic about how we develop community engagement infrastructure in alignment with national best practices, including institutional partnership strategy, faculty rewards, curricular integration, and assessment of outcomes for students, faculty, partners, and the institution. Upon receiving the classification, USU will become a visible member of a national learning community made up of institutions that share our commitment to community engagement.

The pursuit of the Carnegie Classification will allow us to take stock of community engagement across the University and will help us identify areas for improvement. Opportunities for deepening community engagement at USU include faculty rewards, curricular integration, and assessment of outcomes for students, faculty, partners, and the institution.
### Institutional Motivations:

- **Institutional self-assessment and self-study**: Brings disparate parts of campus together to advance a unified agenda and share promising practices across the institution.
- **Legitimacy**: Provides public recognition and visibility for community engagement.
- **Accountability**: Demonstrates that the institution is fulfilling its mission to serve the public good.
- **Catalyst for change**: Fosters institutional alignment for community-based teaching, learning, and scholarship.
- **Institutional Identity**: Clarifies institutional identity and mission that distinguishes the institution from peers.

### How is the USU application being organized?

**Application Timeline:***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2018</td>
<td>Application Received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June-Sept 2018</td>
<td>Data Inventory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2019</td>
<td>Initial Drafting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January-March 2018</td>
<td>Review Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2019</td>
<td>Application Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2020</td>
<td>Classification Announced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since 2015, USU has been actively preparing for the 2020 Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. During the application year, the Carnegie Community Engagement Task Force, made up of executive leadership, faculty, staff, students and community partners, will be formed. The application will be completed by a core writing team with the support of the task force (advisory committee).

### What happens if we do or do not receive the classification?

The entire application process is designed to benefit institutions, regardless of whether they attain the classification this cycle. If our application is not approved, we will receive suggestions that can inform our institutional strategies going forward and potentially reapply in 5 years. If we succeed, we will still get suggestions for improvement and we can apply for reclassification in 10 years.

### What institutions have the classification?

361 campuses currently have the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, including: Georgetown University, University of Notre Dame, Cornell University, Duke University, Pennsylvania State University, Arizona State University, Montana State University, Oregon State University, Washington State University, Colorado State University, University of Utah, Weber State University. For a full list, see: [www.brown.edu/swearer/previous-classifications](http://www.brown.edu/swearer/previous-classifications)

### How can I get involved?

To share your story, learn more about the application process or contribute to the task force, email: kate.stephens@usu.edu

USU Center for Community Engagement