Title:
The Community Engaged Scholarship Working Group: Driving Change through Collective Impact

Abstract:
In response to the Global Strategy Task Force proposal “Transforming 21st Century Higher Education Through Community-Engaged Learning, Research, and Service”, a group of nearly 100 cross-disciplinary faculty and staff from both the Evanston and Chicago campuses gathered in the spring of 2016 to discuss community-engaged scholarship at Northwestern University. The Community Engaged Scholarship (CES) Working Group was borne from this effort, and continues to grow into its second year.
In this session, participants will learn how the working group has used social change concepts such as Collective Impact, and strategies adapted from community organizing, to move from dialogue to action and implementation on several key themes: developing a common vision and guidelines, student preparation, faculty development, understanding our impact, stakeholder engagement, asset mapping, and identifying institutional opportunities for change.
The CES Working Group is leveraging the strengths of a cross-sector community to work in a unified way towards common goals, and is using social change models to lead a process of institutional culture change that draws upon our strengths as a decentralized enterprise. By using methods grounded in asset-based community organizing approaches and Collective Impact, the CES Working Group is changing the paradigm of our work from institutional silos to collective progress. This approach is not only changing what we can accomplish, but how we do our work.

Learning Outcomes:
1. Apply concepts from community organizing and the framework of Collective Impact to foster campus-wide culture change.
2. Understand the process of building a community of practice around a common topic.
3. Recognize existing practices of community-engaged scholarship at Northwestern.