



# Charting the Path Forward: 2026 Carnegie Community Engagement Application

April 16, 2024

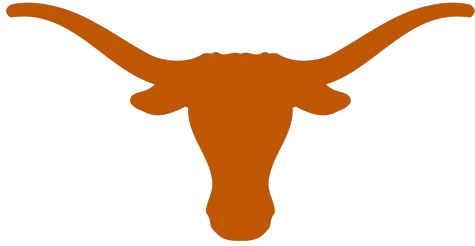


# Agenda



1. **Welcome & Introductions**
2. **Room Connections**
3. **Application Motivation**
4. **2024 Application Cycle Data**
5. **2026 Cycle Framework**
6. **Strategies to Approach the 2026 Application**
7. **Resources**
8. **Questions**

# A Little About Me





## Introductions: Table Talk (5 Minutes)

- Name
- Institution
  - Role
- Classification : First Time or Reclassification

#GOALS

# Motivation and Leveraging



## Elective Classifications: What they do

The Elective Classifications provide an independent and rigorous assessment of an institution's extraordinary commitment to, investment in, and accomplishment at an important aspect of its public purpose.





# Carnegie Community Engagement Definition

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.**



# Institutional Motivation

**Institutional Identity:** Declare an institutional identity and mission that **distinguishes the institution** from peers.

**Institutional Self-assessment and Self-study:** Bring the disparate parts of the campus together to **advance a unified agenda** and identify **promising practices** that can be shared across the institution.

**Accountability:** Demonstrate that the institution is **fulfilling its mission** to serve the public good, as well as a new level of **legitimacy, public recognition, and visibility** for your work.

**Catalyst for Change:** Foster **institutional alignment** for community-based teaching, learning, and scholarship or interdisciplinary leadership development



# Highlights of the Application Process



- The questions themselves helped provide a **road map** for us to reflect upon our community engagement and **how to continue to grow**.
- The application process **brought together** community-engaged **faculty and staff in a new way** that allowed us to identify many effective ways we engage with community, and **also opportunities for improvement**.
- This application was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on where our institution **has been, currently is, and hopes to be regarding civic/community engagement**. We also were able to **celebrate** each stage with our **community partners**. It also provided a great opportunity to hear from a wider **range of departments** about their community engagement activities.
- We realized we were too **decentralized**
- From our report this also gave way to opportunity for **state funding request**.
- It was a very helpful self-study. It helped to **highlight great work** that was occurring and to **illuminate important areas of growth**.
- The fact that we need to strategically **align our budget** and we need to **engage a standard measurement, mixed methods, data collection protocol**
- **Strengthened relationship with system offices** in public engagement, highlighted areas of **improvement and strengths**, assisted with goal setting for further efforts

# The Data

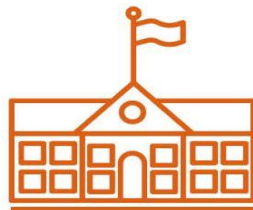


**YOU GOT THIS!**

# 368 campuses

are currently categorized under the  
Elective Classification for Community  
Engagement (2015, 2020, and 2024 cycles)

49 states and territories  
are represented



19 community colleges  
are represented

89 minority serving  
institutions are  
represented

7 HBCUs

1 PBI

53 HSIs

1 ANNH

24 AANAPISIs

3 NASNTIs

230

162



Public



Private

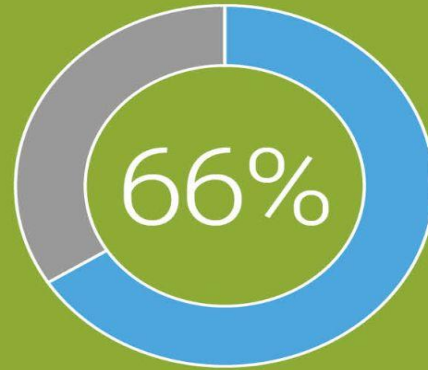
**THIRD-TIME APPLICANTS:  
Institutions Eligible for  
Second Re-classification  
in 2026**

135  
private

193  
public

45 states and territories  
are represented

**CLASSIFICATION  
ATTAINMENT FROM 2024:  
All Institutions**



# Elective Classification for Community Engagement 2015, 2020, and 2024

368 Currently Classified Institutions



● Private ● Public ● Closed ● Consolidated



# Community Engagement Elective Classification Roadmap

## 2024 Application Cycle Data

### Community Colleges

3 Applied / 3 Classified  
100% Classified

### HBCUs

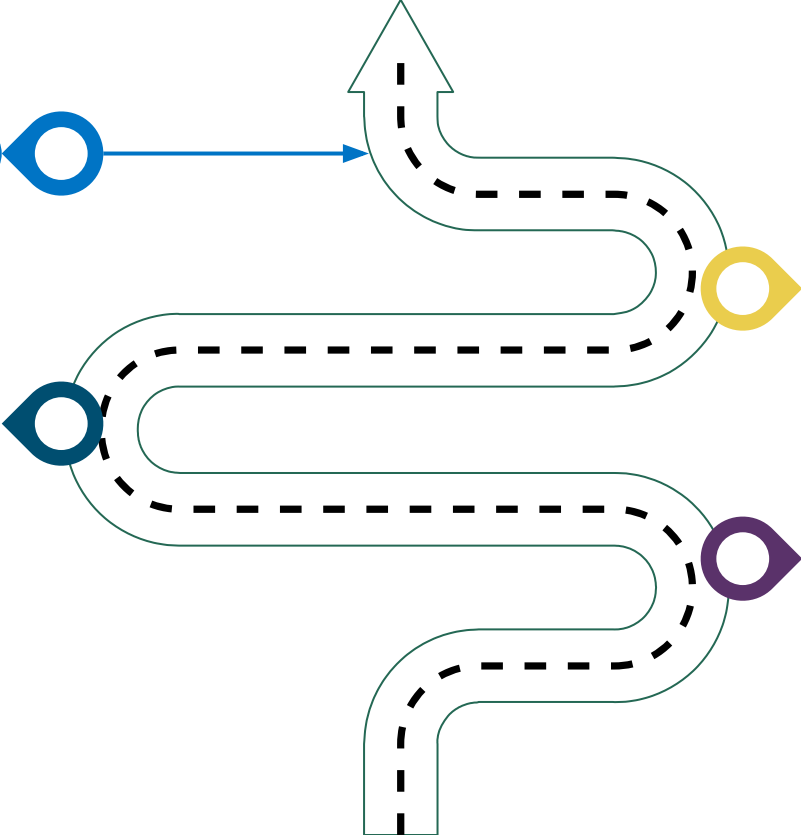
3 Applied / 2 Classified  
67% Classified

### Hispanic Serving Institutions

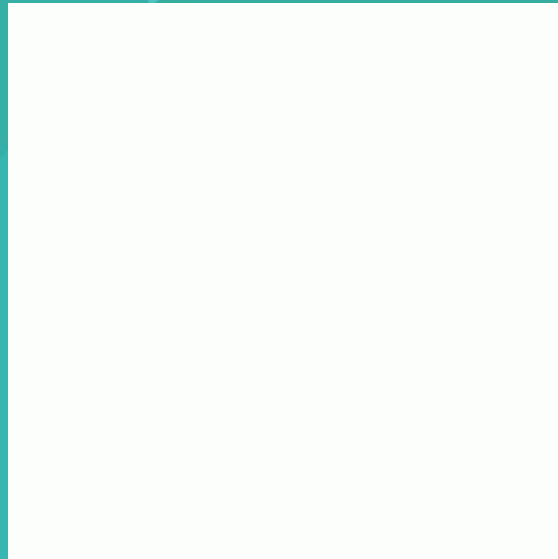
7 Applied / 4 Classified  
57% Classified

### All Applicants

61 Applied / 40 Classified  
66 % Classified



# 2026 Application Cycle Framework



# 2026 Classification Draft Application Framework



Context  
Partners  
Assessment  
Infrastructure

1. Campus Contact Information
2. Campus, Community, Infrastructure, and Community Engagement Context
3. Institutional Identity and Culture

Academic  
Core &  
Assessment

4. Quality of Community Engagement Relationships & Academic Partnerships
5. Faculty and Staff
6. Curricular Engagement
7. Co-Curricular Engagement

Civic  
Learning,  
CE  
Initiatives &  
Assessment

8. Civic Learning and Life - \*\* added in 2026
9. Community Engagement and Other Initiatives
10. Reflection and Other Initiatives

**\*(Institutional Tracking, Monitoring, and Assessment & Outcomes/Impacts integrated into each Section)**



# Application Data



We recognize the many challenges institutions have faced in the wake of COVID-19, many of which have impacted the institutionalization of community engagement.

In the **2026** application, campuses will **use data from AY 2021-2022, 2022-23 and/or AY 2023-24** (if the data is assessed).

\*Moving to 3 year cycle after 2026, currently offered every 2 years. If you receive classification in 2026, you have it for 6 years. If you do not receive classification or would like to wait to apply, you can in 2029.

# 2026 Cycle Timeline



## 2026 Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement Application Timeline



**November 4, 2024**

Deadline to secure application and initiate process



**December 2025**

Notification to campuses of their classification status



**January 26, 2024**

Applications Available on GivePulse and Carnegie Elective Classifications Website



**April 1, 2025**

Application deadline



**January 2026**

Public announcement of 2026 Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement designated campuses

# Strategies to Approaching the 2026 CE Application



# Application Grounding: “Ignore the Perfect! Focus on the Progress”



Institutional commitment and excellence to community engagement are demonstrated through systems and structures that are:

**Deep**  
**Pervasive**  
**Integrated**

Which leads to outputs, outcomes and processes!



# First-Time Application



The **first-time documentation** framework is designed for an evidence-based **reflective process** focusing on **institutionalization** of community engagement and the **alignment** of community engagement as a priority across the campus. It is designed to include narrative responses, **demonstrating institutional commitment and excellence through systems and structures that are deep, pervasive, and integrated.**

The narratives are designed to address:

1. What currently exists, and
2. Relevant supporting evidence

# Re-Classification Application



The **re-classification** documentation framework is intended to facilitate an evidence-based reflection process that focuses on **what has changed** to improve community engagement since the classification. It is designed to incorporate narrative replies **indicating institutional commitment and excellence through deep, pervasive, and integrated processes and structures**, as well as **explanations of changes** from the previous classification.

The narratives are designed to address:

1. What currently exists,
2. Changes since the last classification, and
3. Relevant supporting evidence



# Class or Re-class: Advantages and Challenges

## Re-Class

### *Advantages*

- Potential for continuity in narrative/storytelling: **linkages to prior achievements and challenges**
- Tell a story of deepening **transformation** and/or broadening growth, **impact, outcomes.**

### *Challenges*

- **Transitions** (leadership and champions), financial conditions, internal circumstances and **changing priorities**
- Access to **resources and support**

## (New) Classification

### *Advantages*

- With sufficient lead time, policy, resource, practice weaknesses/**gaps can be addressed**
- Opportunity for **deep-dive, reflective** self-study, potential alignment with other processes (**reaccreditation, strategic planning.**)

### *Challenges*

- Building **consensus on the story**, commitment to new outreach, improving/enhancing systems, engaging in dialogue requires leadership and resources
- Difficult to tell the story of **why and how the self study will impact the CE work**
- Access to resources and support

# Application Fast Facts



- ❖ Application frameworks reside on **GivePulse**
- ❖ Schools can view application fee prior to purchase based on **IPEDs number/FTE**
- ❖ Guidebooks are **available!**
- ❖ Application has 10 sections and can be broken into the following themes:
  - Institutional and Community Partner's Context**
  - Academic Core including research**
  - Co-Curricular, Civic and Additional Institutional Initiatives**
- ❖ Same data is being gathered, **streamlined process with balanced rigor**
- ❖ Assessment and Outcome Questions are integrated in each section
- ❖ Based on our 2024 Resource Survey, **it takes campuses 8-12 months to complete,** depending on resources
- ❖ **State Legislation Impact**





# Application Scenarios: Things to Consider When You Gather Evidence



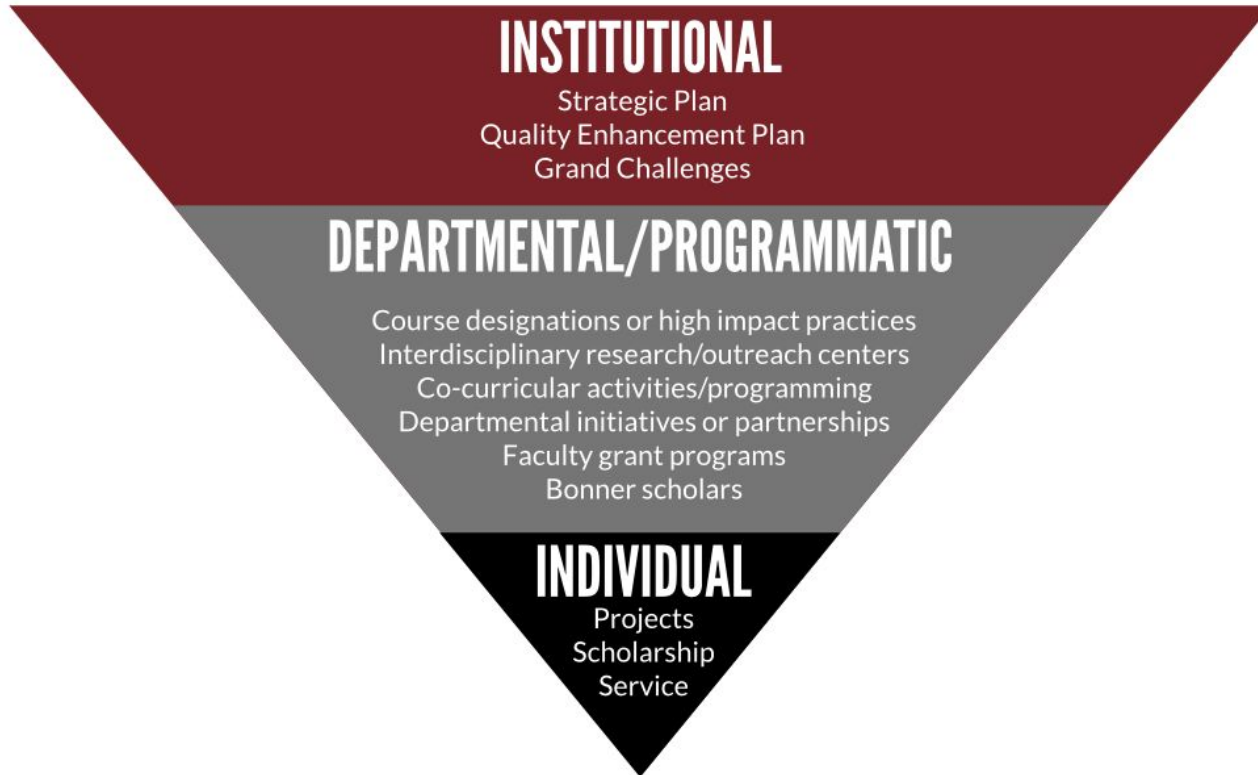


1. My team/campus has an **institutionally sanctioned definition** of community engagement and related terms
2. My team/campus has **5-8 representative examples of academic partnerships** that represent both the depth and breadth of engagement
3. My campus has **budgetary allocations** dedicated to supporting institutional engagement with the community.
4. My campus has a **campus-wide coordinating infrastructure(s) (center, office, network or coalition of centers, etc.)**, as well as reporting structure, staffing, and purpose and goals to support and advance community engagement.
5. My campus has an **institution-wide system(s) or combined mechanisms** to track/record various community and civic engagement initiatives

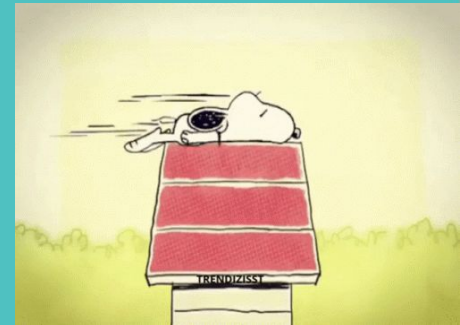


6. Our campus has a **professional development opportunities and campus resources** to support faculty and staff who participate in engaged learning
7. Our campus has **policies for faculty promotion/tenure** that specifically reward community engaged teaching and learning, research, creative activity, and service or are implementing to strategy to do so.
8. Community engagement is integrated into campus **co-curricular practices**.
9. Our campus has programming, partnerships, and policies on **democratic values and civic responsibility**.
10. Our campus has **institutional-wide definition and standards (designation process)** used for community engaged courses
11. Our campus upholds a mutual beneficial environment for community partners to **deepen and improve partnership practices and relationships**—in initiating, sustaining, and assessing partnerships

# Institutional Tracking + Assessment



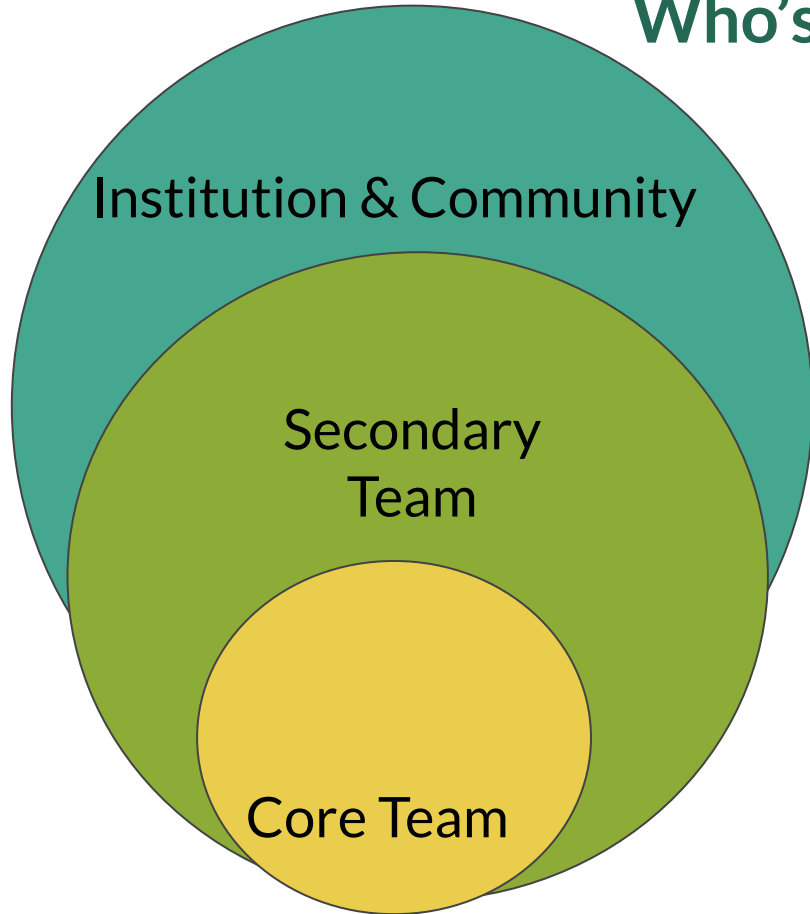
**Audience Pulse Check:  
What motivates you to  
participate in this  
process? What makes  
you a little anxious?**



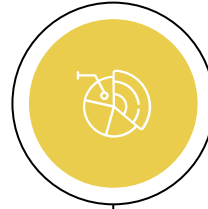
# Resources and Capacity Building



# Who's on Your Squad?



# Application Preparation Working Timeline



**Months 1-4**

## Process Launched

Core Team  
Secondary Team  
Institution and  
community support  
Buy-In  
Explore where evidence  
is located

**Months 4-8**

## Planning and Gather Evidence

Kick off meetings to  
strategize application  
approach  
Gather Evidence  
Map out foci areas  
re:application

**Months 8-12**

## Writing & more writing

Finalize evidence  
gathered  
Work towards  
completing threshold  
sections  
Ongoing meetings  
with team(s) and  
supporters

**Months 12-14/16**

## Application Submission

Finalize  
application-prepare for  
surprises  
Review final draft  
Prepare partners for  
survey  
Submit application on  
April 1, 2025

April 2024 to April 1, 2025 (12 months remain)



# Community Engagement Classification Consultants



As a service to the field and campuses who are interested in **hiring consultants** generally, the Carnegie Elective Classifications team has provided training to individuals interested in being consultants and developing their understanding of the Elective Classification for Community Engagement generally and its application processes in particular.

Twenty three (24) individuals were selected to:

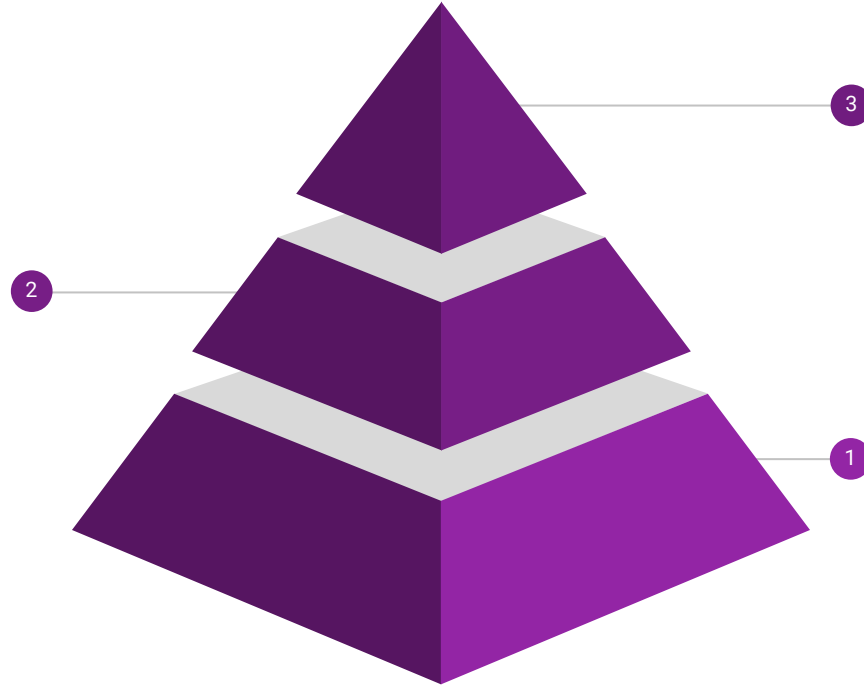
- ❖ Build up skills and knowledge of the current (2026) Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement Framework
- ❖ Build an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Carnegie Elective Classification consultants
- ❖ Build a curriculum and that will be delivered as a training for future cohorts of Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement consultants
- ❖ Participated as 2024 Consultants and reviewers, experts in the field with deep knowledge of the application
- ❖ **Campuses are encouraged to contact consultants earlier in the process as we expect a high volume of interest. All bios and contact information is on our website.**

# Tiered Peer Review Process



## Tier 2 Reviewers

Tier 2 reviewers are individuals who have had extensive experience in reviewing applications in the past and review applications that Tier 1 reviewers determined needed further review. Tier 2 can make recommendations to classify, not classify, or need further review.



## Tier 3 Reviewers

Tier 3 is made up of Carnegie Electives staff. Final review of applications from Tier 2 are made by Tier 3 reviewers.

## Tier 1 Reviewers

Peer review teams made up of 3-5 reviewers who review 7-8 applications and make a recommendation to classify, not classify, or move on to further review. Reviewers need to come to consensus. Reviewer teams are supported by a graduate student fellow.

# 2026 Cycle CE Peer Review Process



## Acquire by Date

November 4, 2024:  
Campuses applying for 2026 cycle must purchase application.

## Call for Reviewers

November 11 - December 13, 2024:  
Call for Reviewers

## Training Reviewers

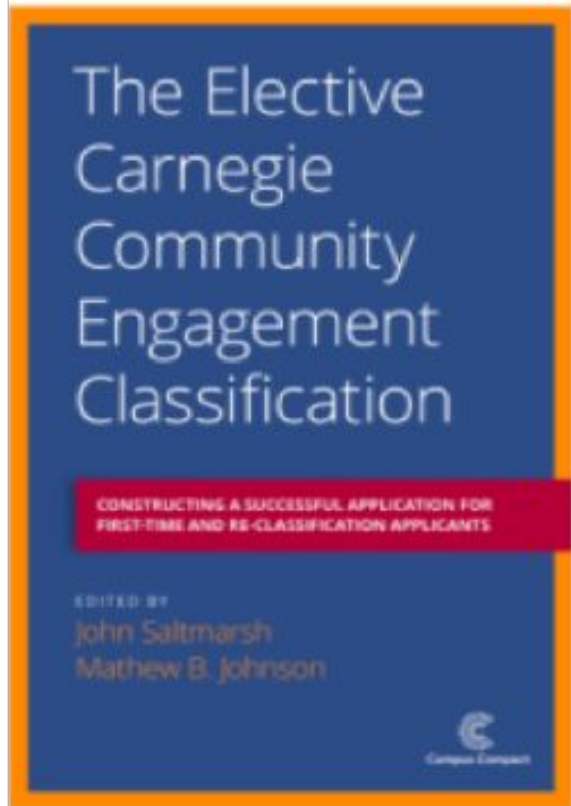
January/February 2025 - March 2023: Train reviewers and assign review teams

## Reviews

May 15 - September 1, 2025:  
Team-based reviews, 7-10 applications per reviewer. Senior review committee in Fall 2025



# Resources



1. A guide is available on the website for both applications to offer additional information on questions and sections within the framework
2. [carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu](http://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu): resources and information on forthcoming webinars and workshops, as well as how to request such training
3. We do not want to exclude a campus from participating due to the inability to cover the application fee. Campuses may request a fee waiver by emailing us at [aortiz@acenet.edu](mailto:aortiz@acenet.edu).

# ACE Engage



The screenshot shows the ACE Engage web application interface. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the ACE Engage logo on the left, a search bar in the center containing the text "Search Carnegie Community Engagement Elective", and a user profile icon on the right. Below the header is a navigation bar with a "Create" button and a gear icon. The main content area is titled "Carnegie Community Engagement Elective" and has tabs for "Feed", "Documents", "Members", "Events", and "Chat". The "Feed" tab is active. A text input field with a plus icon and the placeholder "Share what's on your mind..." is visible. Below the input field are filters for "SHOWING EVERYTHING" and "SORTED BY LAST ACTIVITY". A post by Marisol Morales, Admin and Executive Director, is displayed with the title "Crowd Sourcing request - Tracking software". The post content begins with "Hi folks," and "We received a request asking institutions to share what type of software they are". A "More Activity" button is located at the bottom left of the page. The URL "https://ace-engage.mn.co/discovery" is visible at the bottom left.



# Upcoming Outreach & Engagement: Connecting with the Field



## Spring 2024

- *Gulf South Summit*-April 15-17, 2024, Auburn Alabama
- *North Carolina Community Engagement: Conference Carnegie-In-Action Workshop*-June 12, 2024, Elon University
- Opportunities for late summer and Fall regional meetings are available: Contact Cammie

## Drop-In Virtual Office Hours: with ACE and GivePulse Staff ; Spring 2024 (March-May 2024)

- 2nd Wednesdays at noon to 1pm ET
- 4th Tuesdays at 3pm to 4pm ET
- **Summer 2024:** June office hours will occur on June 14th at noon ET and June 24, 2pm ET

## Spring 2024 Exemplar Series hosted by ACE

- *The Process is the Prize: Strategies for Enhancing Your Community Engagement Application and Transforming Your Institution's Narrative* , Panelists will include successful HBCUs and 2-Year Institution Applicants, April 25th, 12pm ET

## 2026 Application Prep Sessions with Collaboratory

- May 7, 2024, 3:00 pm ET:  
-Session 3: Topic: Institutional Identity + Culture (Section 3)

# Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement

## 2026 APPLICATION CYCLE RESOURCES



### 2026 APPLICATION TIMELINE



### CAPACITY BUILDING RESOURCES



#### WEBINAR SERIES

Join ACE and Collaboratory in a webinar series that explores each section of the 2026 application. Webinars occur monthly until January 2025. Scan the QR code to register.



#### PLANNING DROP-IN HOURS

Discuss specific questions with an application expert. Scan the QR code or join via [zoom.us/j/92978055483](https://zoom.us/j/92978055483). All events are scheduled in Eastern Time.

- April 12, noon
- April 23, 3:00 p.m.
- May 8, noon
- May 28, 3:00 p.m.
- June 14, noon
- June 24, 2:00 p.m.



#### ONLINE RESOURCES

For more information about upcoming webinars and trainings, visit the Training and Consultants and Resources tabs on our website. Visit [carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu](https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu) or scan the QR code to explore.

### MORE INFORMATION

For additional information, you can visit [carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu](https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu) or email Director of the Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement Cammie Jones at [cjones@acenet.edu](mailto:cjones@acenet.edu).





**Register for exemplar workshop on April 25,  
2024**

**HBCUs and Two-Year Institutions on the  
Carnegie Elective Classification for  
Community Engagement Application  
(Part of the Process is the Prize Webinar  
Series)**







GivePulse Purchase Link for Application





[www.carnegieelectiveclassifications.org](http://www.carnegieelectiveclassifications.org)

Contact Cammie: [cjones@acenet.edu](mailto:cjones@acenet.edu)





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