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Eastern Region | Campus Compact

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Regional Conference Will Gather Campus and Community Leaders to Foster Social Responsibility

2nd Annual Eastern Region Campus Compact conference offers models and best practices for maximizing social impact through reciprocal community partnerships.

Hanover, NH, September 25, 2012—More than 200 college faculty members, administrators, community engagement staff, and other campus leaders from Maine to Florida will gather for a two-day conference to gain ideas and models for enhancing the positive impact they have on their communities. The Second Annual Eastern Region Campus Compact conference, whose theme is *Moving Us Forward: Community and Social Responsibility,* will be held at Dartmouth College's Hopkins Center for the Arts on October 11-12, 2012.

"The scope of this conference—both geographically and in the range of campus and community presenters—offers participants an unmatched opportunity to exchange ideas and gain insight into successful approaches to community engagement," says Debby Scire, Executive Director of Campus Compact for New Hampshire, one of the 12 state Campus Compact organizations collaborating on the conference. "We'll cover everything from cultivating a sense of social and civic responsibility on campus to setting up specific programs aimed at addressing local issues."

Pre-conference workshops will offer intensive training for college and university faculty, staff, and institutional leaders seeking to create structures and practices to advance campus engagement. Among these workshops is the Second Annual Faculty Rewards Institute, during which campus teams will draft action plans for creating tenure and promotion guidelines that encourage faculty to build community work into their teaching and research. Other pre-conference workshops will explore strategies for developing engaged scholarship and for creating a culture of engagement on campus.

"As with all of our programming, these workshops focus on hands-on approaches for engaging with the community in ways that deepen students' learning and sense of social responsibility while meeting public needs," notes national Campus Compact President

Maureen F. Curley. “All of these approaches are in keeping with the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, which means that participating campuses can gain insight into how to achieve the classification and the educational and societal benefits it was designed to promote.” The Community Engagement Classification is conferred by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching through a rigorous selection process that recognizes campuses for forming reciprocal community partnerships.

Taking the helm as keynote speaker for the conference is Dr. Sherril B. Gelmon, professor of Public Health and chair of the Division of Public Administration at Portland State University in Oregon. A nationally recognized leader in service-learning and community engagement research, Dr. Gelmon will address “Community Impact and Social Responsibility—Thinking from Multiple Perspectives.” A distinguished response panel will facilitate a discussion following the address.

Two tracks with a total of 16 workshops will offer a wide range of models and best practices for forging effective campus-community partnerships, evaluating programs, and developing students’ academic, civic, and leadership skills. Campus examples to be explored include a course combining academic learning with disaster response, a multi-faith alternative spring break program, a university-city collaboration to end poverty, and programs in areas such as college access and success, mentoring, service-learning, and collaborative research, among others. Facilitators include more than 40 faculty, staff, students, and community partners, who bring a breadth of experience and perspectives on campus engagement and its impact.

Registration for the conference is still open until October 1. More information, including complete workshops and registration information, is available at **http://ercompact.org**.

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About ERCC

Eastern Region Campus Compact (ERCC) channels the strengths of state Campus Compacts and their members in the Eastern United States to exchange information, models, and effective practices for campus engagement. As with all Campus Compact organizations, ERCC is dedicated to fulfilling the civic mission of higher education. Through its annual conference, ERCC focuses on strengthening institutional cultures and aligning institutional incentives to be consistent with the letter and spirit of the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification.

About Campus Compact

Campus Compact is a national coalition of nearly 1,200 college and university presidents—representing some 6 million students—who are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education. As the only national higher education association dedicated solely to campus-based civic engagement, Campus Compact advances the public purposes of colleges and universities by deepening their ability to improve community life and to educate students for civic and social responsibility. Campus Compact comprises a national office based in Boston and state affiliates in CA, CO, CT, FL, HI, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, MA, ME, MD/DC, MI, MN, MO, MT, NE, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, UT, VT, WA, WI, and WV.