

# Community-Based Research: A Vital Curriculum for Faculty, Students & Communities

Jennifer M. Pigza, Ph.D.  
Saint Mary's College of California  
[jpigza@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:jpigza@stmarys-ca.edu)

Mary Beckman, Ph.D.  
University of Notre Dame  
[mbeckman@nd.edu](mailto:mbeckman@nd.edu)

# Session Overview

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- Welcome
- Introductions & Expectations
- Best Practices of CBR
- Case Study Discussion
- Community Impact Orientation
- Conversation, Q+A

# National CBR Networking Initiative

The National CBR Networking Initiative was funded by a grant from the Corporation for National & Community Service (Learn & Serve America) to support the development of high-quality community-based research programs and to create a national networking structure to assist and connect practitioners. The project is housed at Princeton University's Community-Based Learning Initiative (CBLI), is managed in partnership with the Bonner Foundation, and involves 30 additional campuses across the country.



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**What are you hoping to take away from this session?**

# Saint Mary's College of California

## Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action (CILSA)

Academic center with a mission to foster a culture of service and social justice education in both academics and the co-curriculum.

For Faculty: engaged cohort program, 1:1 assistance, financial incentives, engaged learning facilitators (ELFs)

# Principles of CBR

- CBR is a collaborative enterprise between academic researchers (faculty and students) and community members.
- CBR validates multiple sources of knowledge and promotes the use of multiple methods of discovery and dissemination of the knowledge produced.
- CBR has as its goal social action and social change for the purpose of achieving social justice.

From, *Community-Based Research in Higher Education* (2003, p. 8) by Strand, Marullo, Cutforth, Stoecker & Donohue .

# “collaborative enterprise”

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- Professors, students, and the community are engaged at every step in the process.
- Everyone is a researcher and a learner.
- Students become active learners in a problem-based (possibility-based) learning project.
- Community members shape the question and the methods *with* their campus partners.

# “multiple sources of knowledge”

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- Everyone can participate in the production of and dissemination of knowledge.
- CBR “places the less powerful members of society at the center of the knowledge creation process” (p. 11).
- Project design may include multiple research methods.
- Faculty, students, and community partners become “translators” for one another (particularly for the public benefit to be realized).

# “achieving social justice”

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- CBR produces information that contributes to a social change goal identified by the community.
- While “social justice” might seem an insurmountable (and/or problematic) goal, CBR generates knowledge that informs the social change actions of community partners.
- CBR generates expertise and capacity in communities.
- “Students must engage in some amount of critical analysis of causes and social problems and also must consider solutions and strategies for change” (p. 15).

# Comparing Traditional Research & CBR

Handout: Chart from p. 9 of *Community-Based Research in Higher Education* (2003) by Strand, Marullo, Cutforth, Stoecker & Donohue.

# Case Study

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In a course about urban education, the sociologist included a CBR project at a local elementary school serving low-income families, many of whom are immigrant and Latino.

In consultation with the principal, the sociologist decided to find out why the student body had a higher absentee rate than other schools in the area. His students created a survey instrument and proceeded to make phone calls to parents.

Although they did present the principal with a research report, the survey had a low response rate, and the information was generally not as helpful as the principal would have liked.

# Enhancing Community Impact

# Notre Dame CBR Program: The Center for Social Concerns

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- Linking faculty, students and community partners in CBR projects
- Conducting a Faculty Learning Community on CBR
- Providing a monetary award for a faculty member that has contributed locally through his or her own CBR scholarship
- Running a competitive grant program for three teams of faculty, community partners, and students annually

# Collaborative CBR Mini-Grant

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People's access to fresh produce on our predominately low income Latino side of town initiated by the county Reducing Obesity Coalition

Economic Impact of Undocumented workers through a Catholic Parish

Factors leading African American women to miss out of breast care screening with an African American women's breast care center

# What are the effects of CBR in our community?

- We know there are effects.
- Examples: ROC study data has been included in four related grants, and has inspired a farmers market, community garden, and nutrition classes
- But...

# Emerging framework for enhancing the community impact of CBR

- Large, long-term goal and strategies
- Strategies evaluated and projects revised regularly
- Both done in a highly participatory manner

# Example: Education Collaborative



**How might you incorporate CBR and the community impact framework?  
How might the framework be improved?**

