

## CONCLUSION

**U**NIVERSITY-COMMUNITY research partnerships can be forged in any community. To realize their potential, the general consensus from the Pew Partnership's experience and the larger field is that we must do a better job connecting local organizations with higher education and vice versa. Specifically, we believe there are three steps that must be taken to further these partnerships. They are increasing access, increasing rewards, and increasing visibility.

**Access.** Connecting faculty and practitioners will rarely occur without deliberate and conscious efforts to knock down the barriers between the university and the community. Increasing access is the first step toward building effective collaborations.

**Rewards.** Practitioners and faculty can easily be lulled into focusing on their own day-to-day work, ignoring the latent potential of collaboration. Incentives such as stipends for community research, acknowledging the value of community research within the higher education community, and providing resources to defray the costs of research for community-based organizations will go a long way toward catalyzing such partnerships.

**Visibility.** Successful models exist for connecting higher education and communities around research. However, what is often lacking is visibility that spotlights the potential of these partnerships and inspires stakeholders to launch their own partnerships.

There is no doubt that developing stronger university-community partnerships will take time, investment, and hard work. But the payoff is real and worthwhile: to collaboratively build knowledge that in turn improves practice—and ultimately translates into stronger communities overall.



## APPENDIX 1:

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