

Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC)

October 30, 2018 Celebration & Town Hall Summary Report



Overview

The [Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities \(ARCC\)](#) is thankful to the almost 200 community and academic partners and stakeholders who gathered with us on October 30th at the Lawndale Christian Community Center for our 10th Anniversary Celebration and Town Hall Forum. ARCC is celebrating 10 years of engagement and action toward our mission to catalyze and support meaningful community and academic engagement across the research spectrum to improve health and health equity. The crowd and the agenda celebrated and reflected on [ARCC's resources](#) and [accomplishments](#)



and the impact and breadth of community engagement in research at Northwestern and in Chicagoland. Throughout the event, past and present ARCC partners shared inspiring stories and [photos](#) of ARCC's beginnings, growing pains, [seed grant](#) experiences, and powerful long-lasting partnerships that have resulted in systems and policy changes in Chicagoland, scientific manuscripts and multi-million dollar grant funding. A key message throughout is the absolutely fundamental role that stakeholders play in leading ARCC. Continuing in this principle, the forum focused on harnessing ARCC partners' enthusiasm and drive to

envision direction and strategies for [ARCC's next 10 years](#). Input from attendees on ARCC future priorities and activities to support and promote community engagement in research and event materials are included below. Attendees included community partners (community, faith, advocacy organizations and public agencies), academic partners (faculty, staff, trainees/students), a diverse group of ARCC collaborators including members of the ARCC Community-Academic [Steering Committee](#), ARCC [seed grant recipients](#) and Northwestern leadership. The event also included stirring performances from [Collaboraction](#) that set the tone for focusing on equity and justice, encouraging words of support from [Feinberg School of Medicine](#) Dean Neilson and other Northwestern leaders, lively networking, photo booth mischief, and a piñata time capsule cache of ARCC artifacts and participant notes to be burst open in 10 years. The forum ended with a call to "collabor-action" and an informational session for the [ARCC 2019 Seed Grant request for applications](#).



Town Hall Input

Overarching

You said...

- We value and use ARCC services and resources. We want these to continue.
- We also want more resources from ARCC and for these to be shared with more people (academics and communities).
- We want more marketing for ARCC so more people know about and access ARCC.
- Continue valuing and engaging and taking leadership from communities.



How ARCC can demonstrate Commitment to a Culture of Engagement?

You said

- Ensuring research is not just conducted but also that partnership/impact is sustained over time
- Importance of bringing research back to the community – “community not being used”
- Being inclusive with community members and hosting meetings in communities
- Need more diversity in academic partners- Have researchers mirror the community
- Host a conference for stakeholders- call to action
- More marketing of ARCC/ARCC resources to NU staff/community orgs/community members- Allocate funds to marketing
- More multi-university collaboration to share resources and funding to overcome turf challenges
- Further engage students



Take away message: *ARCC should center community at all times*

How can ARCC support Capacity for Engaged Research?

You said

- Research focusing on the whole person
- Want ability to better match between research and community organizations. Create online database of academics who are interested in answering certain questions. Develop directory of research topics, ideas, projects across Chicagoland, possibly across Chicago universities.
- More events like this one to bring community organizations together, opportunities to network, connect
- Create depository of strategic plans as tool for other community partners
- Consider Continuing Education/Continuing Medical Education credits/scholarships for attendees
- Workshops with seed grantees. Address challenges like “How to break bad news without breaking up”
- Develop tool kits of resources for community & academic partners
- Support community capacity for internal staffing for dedicated time for research
- ARCC needs more administrative help



Take away message: *ARCC should take lead in supporting capacity building*

How Can ARCC (fiscally) Support Engaged Research?

You said

- More outreach to local foundations and philanthropy community funders about linkages between ARCC grants/grantees and these funders, as well as for support for ARCC initiatives.
- Need accountability for how research supports/benefits community
- Offer seed grants specifically to support collaborative manuscript writing
- Continue offering current grant types.
- Continue funding a diverse range of projects (population, health issue, geography, etc.)
- Support to help grantees bridge to National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding
- Support for non-traditional “research” – i.e. asset mapping
- Continue providing constructive feedback for grant applications
- Bring grantees together to share challenges, lessons, etc. Connect grantees by neighborhood.
- Help seed grantees develop 30 second elevator pitch with grant results



Take away message: *Funding for diverse partnerships and projects is an essential part of ARCCs role*

