



“One of higher education’s most successful and comprehensive service learning programs.”

- The Chronicle of Higher Education

What is the EPIC Framework?

The EPIC Framework is an innovative, large-scale, adaptable, university-community partnership structure that provides value-add to all stakeholders, advances real community projects, and provides tremendous educational experiences for students across a university. There are 12 key tenets of the EPIC Framework, but the keys are that:

- The partnership is **based on existing administrative structures** of both universities and cities;
- Projects are **community identified** and driven;
- Projects draw on a **mix of disciplines** and faculty at an unprecedented level; and
- The **scale** of EPIC magnifies engagement, as well as educational and community-level impacts.

The EPIC Model Gives...

- Students what they are desperately seeking (an opportunity to make a difference today);
- Cities what they badly need (new ideas, energy, and political space for new direction);
- Taxpayers and legislatures what they want (universities to be relevant); and
- Society what we require (universities to be part of the solutions to our most pressing issues).

A New Model for Higher Education

EPIC-N is the network of universities implementing the EPIC Framework and looking to radically increase the effectiveness of universities in addressing some of society’s most pressing issues. EPIC-N includes a diverse range of institutions that are seeking a new way to harness existing resources more effectively to address environmental, social, and economic issues while also providing impactful educational opportunities and workforce development experiences to students.

An EPIC History

- 2009 The University of Oregon (UO) pilots its Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP).
- 2011 The UO holds its first training workshop to teach others how to adopt and adapt the model.
- 2015 The Educational Partnership for Innovation in Communities Network (EPIC-N) is formed to help launch new programs, support existing ones, and help more communities.
- 2016 Over 25 universities are implementing the EPIC Framework.

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epic-network

Implementing the Model

Annual Conference

EPIC-N annually holds a three-day conference and workshop each Spring for university representatives, city officials, and organizational partners who are interested in adopting, adapting, or enhancing the EPIC Framework for their home institutions and community contexts. Texas A&M's Texas Target Communities will be hosting the Spring, 2017 Conference.

Regional or Customized Conferences

Much of the content of the national conference that is targeted toward the establishment of new EPIC programs can be provided in a customized workshop that might be more appropriate as a regional gathering (e.g. Region 9), one organized by topic (e.g. sustainability), or one organized by constituent type (e.g. national organization of city managers).

Site Visits

Two-day site visits to a university and surrounding communities have been effectively used in several instances to help build university and community support for this new model. Engagement from the President to the student level, but with special focus on speaking with the Dean level and likely program coordinators are the focus. Site visits can also include meetings with potential community partners to help explain the framework and how to be effective partners. These site visits have frequently led to significant revenue for new programs in their first year.

EPIC-N has several trainers available. For information on customized training, please contact Marc Schlossberg or Nico Larco at the University of Oregon's Sustainable Cities Initiative.

For More Information: <http://sci.uoregon.edu/content/epic-network>

