Community: A community is any group of people connected over time by common interests. Communities may or may not be bound by place.

Service to the Community: Service to the Community refers to action taken to meet the needs of others and better the community as a whole. The opportunities for service are identified by ECU, through formal or informal consultation with local nonprofit, governmental, and community-based organizations, and designed to improve the quality of life for community residents.

Community Engagement: Community engagement is a reciprocal partnership between ECU and a community(ies) established to respond to issues and opportunities in a mutually beneficial way through the development, exchange, and application of knowledge, information, expertise, and resources.

Co-curricular Service: Co-Curricular activities involve students and faculty in the community and are student-focused; broad-based and engaging enough to attract the interest of the larger ECU community; provide opportunities for faculty and students to engage in both formal and informal ways; and include learning outcomes, measurement tools to assess student outcomes, and the distribution, collection, and interpretation of data collected. They are sponsored by ECU organizations such as honor societies, service fraternities/sororities, and the Office of Co-Curricular Programming and Cultural Outreach. They are not related to a specific course.

Volunteerism: Volunteerism is defined as choosing to act in recognition of a need, with an attitude of social responsibility without concern for monetary profit; and freely giving of talent, time, and effort for the fulfillment of community expectations.

Extra Curricular Service: ECU student groups that are not part of academic units (for example fraternities or sororities) participate in extra curricular activities to address the needs of the community.

Service Learning: Service-learning is a method of instruction that has the benefit of meeting academic course objectives and helping students develop a sense of engagement and social responsibility. All volunteer hours and service hours are not service learning.

Service learning courses should meet the following broad guidelines:

1) Service learning is structured within a course and has a formal, academic curriculum that is rooted in the discipline in which the course is being offered;
2) The course contains a set of organized community-based learning activities through which students directly service a constituency as a means to address an identified community need;
3) The course provides structured opportunities for students to formally connect their service activities to the course curriculum and to broader social issues through reflective methods.

Outreach: Outreach focuses on the application and provision of institutional resources to the community with benefits to both campus and community. Outreach does not require reciprocity, an equal power structure or a partnership between the university & the community.

Partnerships: Partnerships focus on collaborative, reciprocal interactions with the community that result in mutually beneficial exchanges, exploration and application of knowledge, development of information and identification and consumption of resources. Partnerships join the university and community in a collaborative and equal relationship.

Faculty scholarship associated with curricular engagement is scholarly activity that faculty produce in connection with their service learning or community-based courses or internships. The scholarship products are professional presentations and publications along with curriculum development, assessment of student learning in community, action research conducted in a course that are disseminated by means of reports, curriculum materials, and/or faculty development workshops.

Faculty scholarship associated with outreach and partnerships is scholarly activity that faculty produce in connection with their partnership development and participation or their outreach activities.

Scholarship of Engagement: The Scholarship of Engagement is scholarship that is academically relevant work that simultaneously meets ECU’s mission and goals as well as community needs. In essence, it is a scholarly agenda that integrates community issues. The scholarship products include peer reviewed professional presentations and publications along with grant applications, community presentations, policy development, These products may be disseminated by means of reports, curriculum materials, and/or faculty development workshops. The Scholarship of Engagement includes engaged scholarship and scholarship on engagement. Engaged scholarship focuses on the outcomes of the partnership activities within the community from the partnership’s perspective. The Scholarship on Engagement focuses on the engagement processes from the partnership’s perspective.

Scholarship of Outreach: The Scholarship of Outreach describes scholarly work that is done for members of a group outside of ECU that involves teaching, consultation and/or research. It includes generating, transmitting, applying, and preserving knowledge for the direct benefit of external audiences in ways that are consistent with university and unit missions. The scholarship products include peer reviewed professional presentations and publications along with grant applications, written reports, or policy development. These products may be disseminated by means of presentations, publications, or workshops. The Scholarship of Outreach includes outreach scholarship and scholarship on outreach. Outreach scholarship describes the outcomes of outreach activities while the scholarship on outreach focuses on the outreach processes. Both focus on the faculty member’s perspective.