

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' AWARENESS OF UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Sarika Haque¹, Joan Chu¹, Tammy Wong¹, Taylor Krawec¹, Tanvir C Turin^{1,2*}

¹Immigrant and Refugee Health Interest Group, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada

²Department of Family Medicine, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Introduction

- Community engagement is a broad term that encompasses various activities and has different definitions depending on the context of its use.
- Studies show that many students who participate in regular community engagement feel that they make a difference.
- Researchers believe these experiences have positive long-term effects both academically and non-academically.
- The University of Calgary has implemented the 'Eyes High' Strategy. One of its focuses is community engagement.
- Not much knowledge exists on students' perspectives on campus community engagement initiatives. We do not know the proportion of undergraduate students who are aware of them and involved in them.



Methods

- An online survey will be available through Qualtrics. It asks participants about their knowledge of University of Calgary community engagement initiatives. The next section pertains to perspectives on community engagement. It then asks how engaged participants are, both on and off campus.
- Recruitment flyers will be posted around campus with a QR code that will direct the user to the survey when scanned. Participants may take a picture of the QR code and complete the survey at their convenience using any QR code scanning application.
- Participant eligibility criteria:** participants must be >18 years old, agree to take the online survey, and be an undergraduate student at the University of Calgary.

Objective



- Use survey data to gauge undergraduate student awareness of the university's community engagement objectives and priorities
- Gather perspectives on community engagement from undergraduate students



Results

- Data collection is in progress.

Conclusion

- Our data will increase understanding of student perspectives and knowledge of university priorities. The results will assist in modifying and implementing engagement strategies. It may include the re-evaluation of methods for conveying the university's priorities. The data would be helpful in building a student-informed campus community engagement initiative. This study intends to supplement existing research in the area of community engagement.

Future Directions

- The data gained from this study can provide the university with information about how aware the undergraduate population is of their community engagement efforts.
- Knowing how students feel about campus community engagement can help create new programs and modify existing programs to better reach students.