Community Impact Challenge
2023-2024
Appendix A: Best Practices for Responsible Community Engagement

1. **Embrace an Asset-based Perspective**
   - Recognize the wealth of resources, wisdom, and resilience that exists within communities.
   - Focus on enhancing opportunities and resources in partnership with community members and organizations, rather than on "fixing" perceived issues or problems within communities.

2. **Foster Reciprocal Partnerships**
   - Foster mutually beneficial partnerships that genuinely support the work of community partners and the development of students.
   - Collaborate with community partners to develop, evaluate, and revise programs to ensure that programs are beneficial to their work and to the community.
   - Recognize the value of sustained community involvement in promoting understanding, fostering mutually beneficial relationships, and creating lasting impact.

3. **Value Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**
   - Explore your own identities and how they shape your experience in the community. Seek to continuously identify and challenge assumptions, biases, judgments, and stereotypes about individuals and communities.
   - Value and respect people of diverse identities and backgrounds, and work to create inclusive environments.
   - Recognize and identify ways to address root causes of inequities through a variety of forms of engagement.

4. **Practice Humility**
   - Approach community engagement activities with an open mind and a listening and learning attitude.
   - Critically examine how issues of power and privilege impact attitudes towards community and community engagement activities.

5. **Engage in Education and Reflection**
   - Provide intentional opportunities for learning about partner organizations, community issues, and context before, during, and after community engagement activities.
   - Process community engagement experiences through dialogue to deepen self-awareness and understanding of community and to inform future actions.

Modified from: https://case.edu/studentlife/civicengagement/resources/best-practices