



Current Opportunities for Community-Campus Engagement

Emerging projects in Oxford and in previous partner communities

M Partner is a community engagement effort that seeks to improve quality of life. M Partner offers a framework for community and university representatives to advance priority projects in partner cities across the state. M Partner affiliates with credit-bearing courses, offers community service opportunities, conducts research, facilitates internships, and provides technical assistance to advance community priorities. M Partner is a signature initiative of the Grisham-McLean Institute for Public Service and Community Engagement and its work to empower campus and community partners to fight poverty through education, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

The M Partner model facilitates curricular and co-curricular engagement opportunities from all academic disciplines across north Mississippi. Since 2018, M Partner has completed nearly 120 projects and engaged over 50 faculty/staff and over 800 students in the partner communities of Charleston (Tallahatchie County), Ecu (Pontotoc County), Lexington (Holmes County), New Albany (Union County), and Pontotoc (Pontotoc County). These projects have improved quality of life by supporting small businesses, promoting tourism, advancing food security, offering educational enrichment, promoting community health, elevating local history, and building capacity for nonprofit organizations.

Commitment to place is central to the idea of M Partner. While the formal affiliation period with a partner community lasts for 2 years, the Grisham-McLean Institute is committed to fostering long-term collaborations in each partner community. The CREATE Foundation's Community of Excellence initiative, of which the Grisham-McLean Institute is a part, holds community meetings to identify priority projects to be implemented under the leadership of local CREATE affiliates. Union and Pontotoc Counties, home to former M Partner communities, are actively engaged in this process, as are Chickasaw and Tippah Counties.

M Partner is a certified member of the EPIC-Network. The Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities – Network (EPIC-N) is a nonprofit association with members all over the world. Its members unite the human capital of universities with local governments, and communities, to improve the quality of life and social wealth for all involved. In 2020, M Partner was recognized as a finalist for the EPIC-N Outstanding Program Award.

This document will be updated to reflect ongoing project opportunities through M Partner. Campus and community collaborators are invited to reach out with additional ideas and contributions to improve quality of life and place in partner communities. For additional information, please contact Dr. Laura Martin at lemartin@olemiss.edu or (662) 915-2078.



Grisham-McLean Institute
for Public Service and
Community Engagement





Overview of Current Opportunities for Community-Campus Engagement

Project Area / Title	Location	Status
Food Security		
Integrated Marketing Campaign for Little Free Pantries	Oxford	Completed
Integrated Marketing Campaign for Oxford Community Market	Oxford	In Progress
Inventory Tracking for Little Free Pantries	Oxford	In Progress
Website Development for Little Free Pantries	Oxford	In Progress
Meal Cards and Recipes for Little Free Pantries	Oxford	Seeking Partners
Outreach to Spanish-Speaking Community		
Bilingual Book Club	Oxford	In Progress
Translation of Housing Guide	Oxford	In Progress
Appreciative Inquiry to Better Serve the Spanish Speaking Community	Oxford	In Progress
Translate City of Oxford Permit Forms	Oxford	Seeking Partners
Translate Visit Oxford Materials	Oxford	Seeking Partners
Translate First Regional Library Forms	Oxford	Seeking Partners
Transit		
Integrated Marketing Campaign for Oxford-University Transit	Oxford	Confirmed
Local History & Tourism		
M.B. Mayfield Exhibit at Burns-Belfry Museum & Multicultural Center	Oxford	Seeking Partners
Interpretive Signage at Burns-Belfry Museum & Multicultural Center	Oxford	Seeking Partners
Integrated Marketing Campaign for Burns-Belfry	Oxford	Seeking Partners
Integrated Marketing Campaign for the Union County Heritage Museum	New Albany	Seeking Partners
Marketing Campaign Implementation for the M.B. Mayfield Foundation	Ecu	Seeking Partners
Digital Heritage Trail for Union County Heritage Museum	New Albany	Seeking Partners
Digital Heritage Trail for Burns-Belfry	Oxford	Seeking Partners
Oral Histories about Black Entrepreneurs and Landowners in North Mississippi	Oxford	Seeking Partners
Integrated Marketing Campaign for Chickasaw County	Chickasaw	Seeking Partners
Affordable Housing		
Community and Housing Needs Survey for Oxford/Lafayette County	Oxford	In Progress
Legal Guides for Landlords/Property Managers and Tenants	Oxford	Completed
Promotional Piece for Housing Choice Vouchers	Oxford	Completed
Press Release about the Oxford Affordable Housing Commission	Oxford	In Progress
Outreach to Promote Housing Choice Voucher Acceptance	Oxford	In Progress
Data Collection on Barriers to Housing Development in Pontotoc County	Pontotoc	Pending
Integrated Marketing Campaign for the Fuller Center	Oxford	Pending
Community Health & Wellbeing		
Community Resource Fair (June 2023)	Oxford	Completed
Environmental Education & Water Quality Testing with K-12 Students	Ecu	In Progress
Environmental Education & Water Quality Testing with K-12 Students	Pontotoc	In Progress
Bilingual Health Fair (November 2023)	Oxford	Completed
Integrated Marketing Campaign for the North Mississippi Exchange Center	Oxford	In Progress
Data collection for Substance Use Task Force in Pontotoc	Pontotoc	Confirmed
Integrated Marketing Campaign for the Park Along the River	New Albany	Seeking Partners
Bilingual Health Fair in New Albany (September 2024)	New Albany	Seeking Partners
Bilingual Health Fair (October 2024)	Oxford	Seeking Partners