

Clarkson's Community Connection: Mission Statement for Community Affairs

As a nationally-recognized technological university, Clarkson must also view itself and act as an integral part of its community and region. While an important goal, it is not enough to work on establishing good relationships with the Potsdam community and various North Country constituencies. The University also must actively facilitate opportunities for partnership and collaboration with its neighbors that foster mutual benefit and the communal good.

The mission of Community Affairs is to develop successful partnerships that create:

1. Opportunities for the community to benefit from Clarkson students, faculty and staff using their skills, talents, and knowledge to assist in solving community problems. In some cases students may earn academic credit for participating in extensive projects with an identified learning outcome, but projects that are more short-term in nature will be handled on a volunteer basis.
2. Opportunities for students to benefit from helping to resolve real issues that communities face and to learn that working with selected professionals within the community can bring them a new level of awareness about the value of partnerships and collaboration.

We need to study the specific ways in which Clarkson can partner with the Potsdam community in order to accomplish the following:

- Utilizing opportunities for collaboration to help meet Clarkson's learning objectives for its students.
- Building a strong and positive sense that Clarkson University is an active participant in and contributor to our community.
- Creating awareness that while the University faces the need to generate revenues for its own financial well being, it also can collaborate in improving the business climate in Potsdam.
- Fostering interaction between students and community members as a way of recognizing they can be valuable resources for one another.
- Maintaining a positive and friendly bond between University and community that creates a stronger and more welcoming atmosphere for all.

During this first year of beginning to build a stronger relationship between the University and Potsdam, we need clearer direction concerning the areas of the community that it makes most sense for us to pursue. Where can the strengths of our students, faculty and staff best be matched in the community?