CFICE Opportunities Database: A Helpful Guide

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Table of Contents

1. Background and Guiding Framework

The purpose of this initiative is to create and maintain an Opportunities Database to serve as a brokering tool for community-campus engagement (CCE) opportunities in the environmental and sustainability sector. A strong understanding of the community's current situation ensures that the Database adequately addresses community needs while providing a solution to the challenges that community organizations face in accessing information on CCE.

What Specific Information do Organizations Need about CCE Opportunities?

Community organizations enter into CCE agreements for various reasons, including to advance research, partnerships, and training, to make connections, to provide mentoring, and to receive support for their work in the community. As one community member aptly noted, to tap into the vast array of CCE opportunities available, organizations ultimately need a "greater view of the landscape." With such a wide variety, range, and nature of opportunities available, it is difficult for organizations to keep track of the different procedures, guidelines, and institutional programming of each post-secondary institution (PSI). A publicly-accessible database or tool to consolidate all relevant information in one place could counteract this issue.

Issues and Challenges

The table below illustrates the challenges expressed by community partners around CCE, and offers solutions presented by the Opportunities Database.

Challenges	Opportunities Database Solutions
Lack of time	The Database consolidates all relevant information related to each opportunity, eliminating the step of organizations taking time to conduct further research into the details of CCE opportunities.
Lack of resources	Where applicable and available, this Database provides detailed information about the financial commitment required by the community partner, and lists the opportunities that do not require a financial commitment so that organizations are fully aware of the options.
Confusion around appropriate contact person	This Database lists the most appropriate contact person(s) for the CCE opportunity, along with a general contact email for the department/institution.
PSI websites too difficult to navigate	The Database consolidates all relevant information from PSI websites, eliminating the need to navigate these to find information.
Lack of response from contacts	The Database lists alternate (general) contacts in case of lack of response from the lead contact.
Wide variety of procedures, guidelines, institutional programming	The Database provides a one-stop-shop for CCE opportunities and will list all available procedural details for each opportunity.
Lack of clear theme/direction	The Database's specific thematic focus on the environmental sector makes for a highly relevant and well-defined tool for community partners in this sector.

2. About the Database

This database is an interactive map showing various CCE opportunities in the Ottawa-Gatineau area. With data from PSIs throughout the region, it presents a visual guide for environmentally-focused community organizations seeking research-based student engagement, student community support, or networking opportunities.

Who Should Use this Database?

Individuals, nonprofit organizations, and community members seeking to enter into formal partnerships with PSIs for the purpose of student community engagement should use this tool to identify potential opportunities and contacts. Where available, contact information is listed for the appropriate PSI liaison for each respective opportunity.

A Note on Standardization

The Opportunities Database was created with a view to standardizing the way by which CCE opportunities are described and recorded. Setting standards for the collected data provides accuracy and consistency of the data, and could allow the project to inform later projects. The data elements for the CCE opportunity have been structured in order to minimize confusion, integrate information from diverse sources, and to record them consistently. Standardization of the data elements will allow this tool to become an important Open Data initiative. The Opportunities Database utilizes the Work-Integrated Learning typology developed by the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) to categorize the types of CCE opportunities.

3. How to Use the Database

The database, presented in the form of a community landscape map powered by Kumu, a data visualization platform, presents live data collected by the CFICE team. Viewers can see connections between institutions and opportunities, and the element feature attaches narratives and data to every element, connection, and loop using profiles.

The brokering tool provides viewers with information on the following details regarding each opportunity (where available):

- Institution
- Faculty
- Department/Institute
- Course Title
- Course Number
- Open Researcher and Contributor ID URL
- Category of CCE
    - Systematic Training
    - Structured Work Experience
    - Institutional Partnerships
- Academic Level of Student
- Number of Student hours Required
- Number of Community partner hours required
- Faculty supervision provided? (Y/N)
- Number of Faculty supervision hours provided

- Level of Community Partner supervision required
  - High
  - Medium
  - Low
- Lead Contact Name, Title, Email, Phone
- General/Alternate Contact

4. Glossary

Academic Placements: Academic placements are community-based experiences that are part of an academic course, linking the theories learned in class to the diverse aspects of the community.[1]

Community-Campus Engagement (CCE): CCE occurs when members of academic institutions and members of the community come together with a shared goal and the intention of accomplishing more together. Shared resources, such as funding, time, space, and labour, are an added benefit of CCE.[2]

Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement (CFICE): CFICE is a research project that studies how community and campus players work together to positively impact their communities.[3]

Data Standards: Data standards are the rules by which data are described and recorded. In order to share, exchange, and understand data, we must standardize the format as well as the meaning.[4]

Experiential learning: This refers to the specific techniques or mechanisms that an individual can implement to acquire knowledge or meet learning goals.[5]

Institutional Partnerships: Postsecondary education activities to achieve industry or community goals (e.g., service learning).[6]

Internship: Work experience under the guidance of an experienced professional. Deep learning and realistic preview of employment sector.[7]

Kumu: Kumu is a data visualization platform that allows users to organize and view complex information in interactive relationship maps.

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[1] McMaster University
[2] CFICE (Carleton)
[3] CFICE (Carleton)
[4] USGS Data Management
[5] HEQCO
[6] HEQCO
[7] HEQCO

Placement: Umbrella term describing all structured work experience. Learning emphasis on career exploration and employability/ professional skill development.[8]

Research-based engagement: Research-based engagement opportunities allow students to connect with a community organization to undertake research in a specific area to help advance the organization's work.

Structured Work Experience: Familiarization with the world of work within a postsecondary education programme (e.g., field experience, professional practice, co-op, internships).[9]

Systematic Training: Opportunities where the workplace is the central piece of learning (e.g., apprenticeships)[10]

Co-op Education: Guided professional and employability skill development through alternating full-time study and full-time employment across an academic programme.[11]

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[8] HEQCO
[9] HEQCO
[10] HEQCO
[11] HEQCO