

Our Compact Renewed  
A Civic Action Plan  
St. John Fisher College

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## Introduction

Community service and civic engagement have been at the heart of St. John Fisher College since its founding

-long search for truth, a belief in the dignity of every individual, and an affirmation that service to others is a worthy expression of our

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of community engagement with the 2015 Community E3 onnionatW\*n BT /4(y005(io;98(e)4.004(vty E)11.7.998()-2.998()

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## Our Approach

### Current institutional assets

Though there are a variety of institutional activities that involve partnering with external agencies and constituents, three on-engagement: the Center for Service-Learning , Community Service Office, and Center for Community Engagement, all housed in the Institute for Civic and Community Engagement.

2. More than 90 percent of students taking service-learning courses reported that their cross-cultural awareness increased, as did their awareness of needs in Rochester.

3. In 2015-16, Fisher students and faculty partnered with more than 50 community-based nonprofits. Twelve small businesses in the City of Rochester also benefitted from service-learning and MBA capstone courses.



# The Path Forward: Our Civic Action Plan

College commits to:

1. **Work the Right Way** - In partnership with Connected Communities, a nonprofit agency formed to guide the transformation of holistic revitalization to break the cycle of poverty. That model includes a cradle-to-college-to-career -income housing strategy, and community wellness through a network of support services.

Communities is leading a public/private partnership that includes the Beechwood Neighborhood Coalition, EMMA Business and Neighborhood Association, Northeast Area Development (NEAD), Home Leasing, Hillside Family of Agencies, Farash Foundation, and the University of Rochester.

We are choosing to support Connected Communities and partner with the EMMA and Beechwood

Beechwood neighborhoods are home to nearly 8,100 residents in 2,700 households, only a third of which are owner-occupied. More than half of the households have combined incomes of \$25,000 or less; 10 percent of the residents are under the age of 5; 30 percent are under the age of 17. Fifty-eight percent of the residents are African-American and 24 percent Caucasian.

These neighborhoods have concentrated poverty, struggling schools, low graduation rates, and lack of service coordination.

Since its inception, Connected Communities has been community-driven rather than volunteer-driven and community-led rather than volunteer-led; it exists to support neighborhood residents and community stakeholders as they lead their own neighborhood change.

Our partnership with Connected Communities will involve applying and leveraging our institutional resources in a focused, intentional, and sustainable way to help address the

leadership. We will begin by extending our service-learning and community service in this area in response to resident-identified issues; over time, as our relationship with residents and neighborhood leaders develops, we expect that our work with the EMMA and Beechwood neighborhoods will lead to increased opportunities for experiential



## The Planning Team

sory Group composed of campus and community thought leaders.

Members of the Planning Team will include:

1. Provost
2. Dean of the Wegmans School of Nursing and Associate Vice President for Community Engagement
3. Director of the Institute for Civic and Community Engagement
4. Assistant Director of the Institute for Civic and Community Engagement
5. Director of the Center for Community Engagement
6. Director of Campus Ministry
7. Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Diversity Programs
8. Two faculty liaisons

In addition, the Advisory Group will inform the work of the Planning Team. Members of that group will include:

1. Executive Director, Connected Communities
2. Executive Director, Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI)
3. President and CEO, Farash Foundation
4. Executive Director, ESL Foundation
5. Director, Roc the Future