

Our Mission

And how we approach CEL.

The Centre for Community Partnerships (CCP) builds community, enhances capacity and stewards partnerships for curricular and co-curricular community-engaged learning and research (CEL/R) initiatives at the University of Toronto. We do so by:

- supporting instructors across all campuses and disciplines as they develop CEL/R courses and scholarship
- stewarding partnerships for grassroots, non-profit and public organizations who want to partner on CEL/R opportunities
- expanding and increasing access to resources that enable faculty and staff to offer high-quality community-engaged learning and research opportunities
- expanding opportunities and building student capacity for participating in community-engaged learning and research

At the CCP, we understand CEL to be distinguished according to four key characteristics. CEL is:

- Enabled through partnerships with communities or grassroots, non-profit or public organizations
- Responsive to community-defined priorities
- Rooted in reciprocity, where community partners and students all benefit from the engagement
- Asks students to undertake reflection to connect community engagement to defined learning objectives

primarily on the student, for whom the priority is vocational learning and the development of skills for a specific profession. The activity or project students undertake is driven more by professional standards and accreditation than by the needs of the community organization or residents. Volunteerism, at the other end of Furco's continuum, focuses primarily on community organization requirements rather than the learning goals of the volunteer.

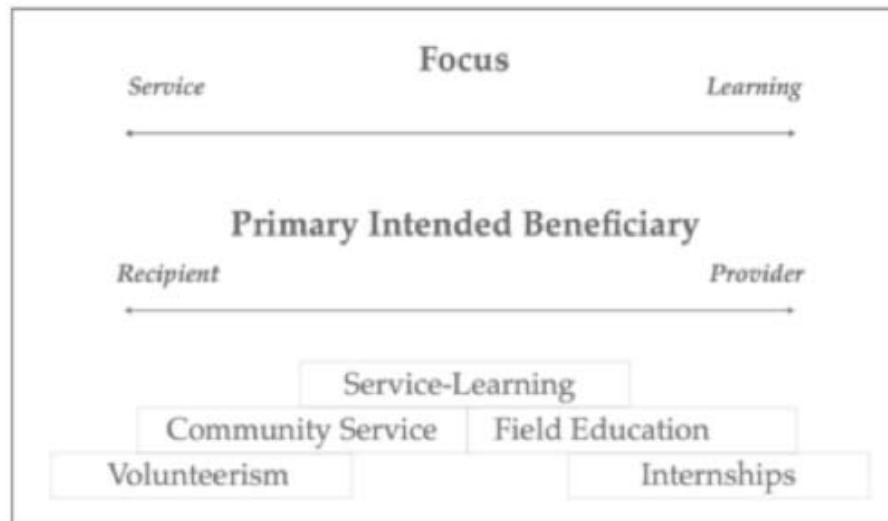


Diagram - Experiential education continuum (Furco, 1996)