# Office of University Partnerships
## An Alliance for Community Building

In 1900, there were 238,000 students enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities. Today, that number has swelled to an estimated 17 million. And just as the number of students who are pursuing a higher education has grown, so has the role colleges and universities play in the community.

Once focused on being the creators, preservers, and transmitters of knowledge and culture, colleges and universities have expanded their role in the community by becoming economic engines, applied technology centers, major employers, investors, real estate developers, and reservoirs of creative and energetic people. Today's colleges and universities have truly become a pillar of the community, providing critical and much-needed support.

### Neighbors Helping Neighbors

From affordable housing to economic development, America's cities face many challenges. Overcoming these challenges requires communitywide support. Because colleges and universities have such an impact on a community's economic, social, and cultural well-being, it is imperative that these institutions are fully engaged in assisting the communities in which they reside to devise solutions to these challenges.

### Office of University Partnerships: Encouraging Collaboration

In 1994, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) established the Office of University Partnerships (OUP) to encourage and expand the efforts of colleges and universities that are striving to make a difference in their communities. This resource, part of the Department's Office of Policy Development and Research, is committed to helping universities join with their neighbors in partnerships that address urban problems. By helping university students and faculty members to work together with neighborhoods, these partnerships are revitalizing the local economy, generating jobs, and rebuilding healthy communities.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Office of Policy Development and Research

Office of University Partnerships

www.oup.org

**OUP helps institutions of higher learning fulfill their urban mission in a number of ways:**

- It is a **catalyst**, creating a dialogue through which colleges and universities, the professional associations that represent them, and community leaders can learn from one another about promising partnership activities and opportunities.
- It is a **broker**, linking universities more strongly to HUD's mainstream programs, as well as connecting them to other potential national and local partners and to resources that will enable them to revitalize distressed communities in more significant ways.
- It is a **funder** of HUD grant programs that help harness the immense energy, expertise, and resources of our academic communities. HUD grant programs include:
  - **The Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian Institutions Assisting Communities Program** provides funds to expand the role and effectiveness of these institutions in addressing community development and revitalization needs in their localities.
  - **The Doctoral Research Grant Programs** enable doctoral students to complete their research and dissertations on policy-relevant housing and urban development issues.
  - **The Hispanic-Serving Institutions Assisting Communities Program** provides funds to expand the role and effectiveness of these institutions in addressing community development and revitalization needs in their localities.
  - **The Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program** helps these institutions address community development needs in their localities, including neighborhood revitalization, housing, and economic development, principally for persons of low and moderate income.
  - **The Tribal Colleges and Universities Program** provides funding to help these institutions expand, renovate, and equip their own facilities, as well as expand their role in their local communities through activities addressing economic development, cultural heritage, childcare, health, job training, and community revitalization.

Few institutions can contribute more to rebuilding America's communities than its colleges and universities. The futures of America's cities are tied to university-community collaboration and partnerships—and OUP is here to help.

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