



Change Lab for Engagement Capacity Building

Call for Applications: Engagement Advocates (Spring and Fall 25)

Application Deadline: December 10, 2025

In the recent round of Weitz application proposals, our project titled **Change Lab for Engagement Capacity Building** (henceforth, Change Lab) was selected for funding. The team behind this proposal is now seeking applications from faculty and staff interested in being part of the Change Lab in the role of Engagement Advocates.

What is the Change Lab?

The Change Lab is envisioned as a resource center and organizational innovation incubator co-created by university stakeholders and grounded in principles of shared governance. Its mission is to foster the conditions that incentivize, legitimize, support, and give visibility to diverse forms of scholarship, with a special interest in engaged scholarship (ES) and community engagement (CE), across teaching, research, and service activities at UNO. For definitions, visit UNO's [Community Engagement Definition and Terms page](#).

What is an Engagement Advocate?

Engagement Advocates work in partnership with groups (academic units, committees, offices, etc.) and/or individuals to promote and undertake organizational change efforts rooted in collaborative inquiry, shared purpose, and co-creation of solutions that align the incentive structure of the university with its engagement mission.

The work of Engagement Advocates is envisioned as a form of engaged scholarship in its own right, but within UNO as an organization and community of practice, working with its members as partners and collaborators, just as one would with external partners and collaborators. Together these advocates use their strengths, vision, and experience to build new ways of honoring rigorous engagement.

What are some activities that Engagement Advocates will lead?

An Engagement Advocate is a leader for change. Activities will include some combination of the following:

- Collaborative inquiry and needs assessment
- Facilitate the professional development of faculty related to community engaged teaching, research, and service.
- Engagement and relationship building across campus and with external stakeholders
- Evaluation and dissemination of outcomes
- Mentorship and leadership development



What are some benefits and opportunities for Engagement Advocates?

- Engagement Advocates can receive either a course release per term or a stipend.
- This is a one-year commitment, with possible renewal.
- UNO staff will receive a percentage time of appointment.
- Participation in the Change Lab can be an opportunity for research in organizational change using action research, improvement science, and related methods.

What are we looking for in an Engagement Advocate?

The ideal Engagement Advocate presents these attributes and interests:

- Deep knowledge of university policies, procedures, governance structures, and culture gained through a combination of years of service and participation or leadership in key governance processes, research and grant support, or academic affairs.
- Expertise and commitment in action research, engaged scholarship, improvement science, or related.
- Overall commitment to engagement in its multiple forms (e.g., engaged teaching or research)

Complete [this brief application form](#) by December 10 to express your interest in becoming an Engagement Advocate in the Change Lab effective Spring 25 and concluding in Fall 25.

For questions, please contact the project's PI:
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Project's team members:

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