Tips for RWU Faculty Working on CPC Projects

The suggestions and tips below were provided by RWU Faculty who participated in a CPC project.

- When considering a CPC project, remember that if the timing works with the community partner, you can prepare for the project and the course one semester, and begin the project the following semester.
- Ask one of the CPC staff members to come talk to your class during the first or second week. They will tell them about the CPC, the project, and set a precedent for the level of work that is expected from the students.
- One of the best parts about having your class work on a CPC project is that the students have to focus on something outside of themselves and learn how to apply all of the theories we teach them in a real world application.
- It’s important to help your students understand that the community partner’s wishes and perspectives aren’t always the same as their own. Teach them how to manage these differences in a professional manner.
- It can be challenging to take on more than one CPC project at a time or in the same course.
- If you really love working on CPC projects in your course, think about a course where the whole semester can be devoted to just the CPC projects.
- If other faculty members are working with the same community partner or on the same project, find time to meet with them early and often. It’s also important to find times where the students can meet and discuss what work is being done by each course for the community partner.
- CPC projects can be difficult to manage within an online course. The students just don’t have the time to meet as a group or with the community partner to get the work done.
- A CPC project can really enhance your course. It gives the students the opportunity to work on a real world project, to put their academic skills to use, and to get out of the classroom.
- If the project doesn’t get done in one semester, that is OK. Work with the CPC to determine the next best course of action; should the project continue in one of your classes next semester, as an independent study, an internship, by another faculty member, or by the CPC staff?
- A large class can make working on a CPC project challenging. Consider breaking the class up in to teams to work on various tasks or offering the CPC project to a selected, smaller group of students.
- Make sure you meet with the community partner before the semester starts so you can establish concrete goals and a scope of work before the project begins.
- Have the community partner come to meet with the students in the very beginning of the semester. This will give students the chance to learn about the project, the community partner’s organization, and what their expectations will be for the semester.
- Identify information sources for your students early on which pertain to the project.
- Make sure you invite the community partner to a mid-semester and end of the semester presentation to see the work the students have done. The mid-semester check is really important because it allows everyone to make sure the project is still on track.
• If this is your first time working on a CPC project and you need extra support, just as the CPC staff. That’s what they are there for. Don’t be afraid to ask to see past samples of work and to talk to faculty members who have worked on similar projects in previous semesters.

• Turn all of the final work in to the CPC at the end of the semester. This will allow them to get the work to the community partner, online, and to the digital repository. This is also very important to do when the work will be continuing into the next semester or the work will be needed to guide future work for the community partner.