

Public Engagement at the SPP

Public policy is about sustaining, changing, and improving the world. Given these core aims, outward-facing public engagement that informs public policy and engages the public through research, teaching, and other programming will be a critical component of Cornell's School of Public Policy (SPP). The SPP will create opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty, to contribute to this effort by providing information, resources, and infrastructure. Public engagement will be integrated into the mission of the SPP and infused in teaching, scholarship, and a full range of corresponding activities, including collaborations that offer a platform to impact policy to Cornell faculty outside the SPP. Although the precise contours of public engagement will be determined by the SPP's administration and faculty, our committee believes that these basic principles will shape that approach:

- 1) A commitment to engage with the public on key policy issues;
- 2) Providing staff and resources to support this commitment;
- 3) Allowing faculty and students a voice in determining how to engage effectively;
- 4) Coordinating with other departments and centers on campus to help amplify public engagement; and
- 5) Connecting the public with the engaged policy research by Cornell faculty.

There are a variety of specific forms of public engagement that the SPP will facilitate, and they will span a diverse gamut. They may include organizing events in Albany and Washington, D.C. to engage directly with state and national policymakers; working with community organizations on matters of local policy; hosting policy-oriented events on campus; supporting engaged learning courses; funding student internships; facilitating workshops or seminars aimed at equipping faculty to conduct engaged research; or engaging with journalists, policy practitioners, businesses, groups, communities, and foundations.