



To Our Potential Academic and Community Partners:

We are very excited by your interest in working with us to realize our vision of community integration, leading to meaningful relationships and exchanges between academia, St. John's, and aging-services providers to serve the physical, social, cognitive, and emotional wants, and needs, of older adults. We expect that all collaborators within The St. John's Collaborative for Intergenerational Learning (SCIL) will strive to understand, and build upon, the experiences and strengths of all students, elders, and community partners. With this in mind, we do have guidelines that we ask you to keep in mind as you move forward with your programming. Specifically, we ask that you remember that your experience involves multiple constituencies as outlined below.

Elders - Elders should not be seen merely as the recipient of a program, but as assets to what we are trying to accomplish. The residents at St. John's should be included in the design, completion, and assessment of a program. The work of the elders should be celebrated in some meaningful way, perhaps through a conference presentation, open house for other St. John's residents to learn about what their friends and neighbors have accomplished, or simply through an in-class celebration.

Students - It should be remembered that younger adults often view aging and older adults with apprehension and uncertainty. Reducing this anxiety will enhance the learning process and promote positive outcomes. Collaborators should think about designing opportunities for students and elders to interact with, and learn from, one another prior to the actual intended program. This will serve to make the experience as meaningful as possible.

Faculty - Faculty should make every effort to include the students and elders in the design of their program with St. John's. You should also seek advice from current and past faculty who have worked with St. John's. These faculty would be pleased to share with you syllabi, assessment tools, and other learning outcomes accomplished since the inception of SCIL. Also, it is expected that all faculty, community partners, and aging services-providers complete an assessment process of their experience, including feedback from students, elders, and community partners. This information is to be shared in a timely fashion with The SCIL Advisory Board upon the completion of the program.

The Community - As previously written, a goal of SCIL is to bring together academia, St. John's, and the larger community. Collaborators should think about how their programming can benefit others in the Rochester community. How can the results of your experience be shared with the community? What can be learned, and used, by others in the community? Think about your programming beyond the classroom and those directly involved in it. This will make for a more impactful and dynamic experience for all.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any one of us, and good luck! We look forward to learning more about the outcomes of your endeavors.

Sincerely,

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