Building Community Partnerships: What it Takes

IDENTIFY MUTUAL INTERESTS
Partnership is about starting where people are and finding ways of coming together to identify mutual interests. It’s a long-term relationship.

CLARITY ON GOAL
Most partnerships start with clarity around goals or expectations. That means that you identified, or the partner identified, you as someone that could be of value and of service to focus on a goal or priority and sometimes it might be a crisis.

KNOWLEDGE BASE OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS
Have a good knowledge base of the community partners and the communities that you about to be invited to be a part of. That means knowing their cultures, knowing their norms, knowing their histories and know how communities like to engage.

BUILD TRUST
This is the glue that is going to hold the relationship together and grow stronger. How does your community partner appreciate trust and building on a trusting relationship?

Be mindful of self-determination. Community partners have collective selfdetermination. Be respectful of their choices, it might not be what we ideally want but we need to be mindful that the community has the most important say in the relationship that you build with them.

Adapted from UTEP Center for Community Engagement, 2018 Service Learning Video Series
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=hlqIMCYngr0