



August 28, 2008

Robert L. Caret
President

Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education
The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching
51 Vista Lane
Stanford, CA 94305

Dear Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement Team:

On behalf of the students, faculty, staff, and community members of Towson University, it is with great pleasure that I present you with our application for consideration of the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement.

From our early roots as State Teachers College, to our current standing as a comprehensive university, Towson University has historically focused on providing solutions for our region. As a metropolitan university, our mission is defined by our ability to be an engaged resource and reciprocal partner to the community, while keeping our academic purpose at the forefront.

This submission of Towson University's approach to community engagement is the culmination of the efforts of an institution-wide task force made up of students, faculty, college leadership, and administrative leadership—as well as information gathering from community partners.

As we predicted, the university benefited significantly from this review, and taking inventory of what many of us do on a daily basis. As a result of compiling our best practices, we discovered areas where even more collaborative opportunities are possible.

As you review the application you will see many references to our strategic plan, *Towson University 2010: Mapping the Future*, because it drives everything we do. While many components of our plan guide community engagement, two guiding principles, "Create and Serve" and "Institution of Unlimited Boundaries," best describe our aim to create responsive partnerships that extends learning beyond the borders of our campus.

Thank you for your guidance and support throughout the application process. We consider it an honor to be considered for this classification, and look forward to your favorable decision.

Sincerely,

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