


WHO OWNS COMMUNITY?


Larry D. Roper
Oregon State University

Community...


- **Context in which we feel nurtured, sustained and stimulated;**
- **Where we take ownership and responsibility for the condition of our shared space;**
- **An interdependent human system given form by the conversations we hold with ourselves**
- **A paradoxical dance where personal aspiration and personal sacrifice embrace**
- **Where love and forgiveness are central themes**




Community is always an urgent and compelling need - more so for some than others



People are seeking connection,
engagement, and nourishment – there is
a human yearning




Community is fluid, multidimensional
and manifested in all interactions and
behaviors



Feelings of community are demonstrated in how groups perform, how individuals act towards each other, policies and the physical environment



The desire for community is a university-wide need that requires leadership




The current condition of our society
offers clear evidence of the need for
community

The Need for Community

- ❑ **Our social institutions are ailing**
- ❑ **Lives of members are disconnected**
- ❑ **Many people in our organizations feel vulnerable and “at-risk”**
- ❑ **Personal value is questioned**
- ❑ **Hope is shaken**
- ❑ **Everybody is significant and this point must be reinforced by our leadership and relationships**

What community can do for us?

- **Heal and restore**
- **Create a sense of belonging**
- **Acknowledge our interdependence**
- **Elevate our accountability**
- **Demonstrates our value for each person**
- **Offer guidance for our relationship development**
- **Reinforce our commitment to be the type of institution we profess to be**
- **Deepen our love of place and each other**



Who should or will step forward and claim ownership for the condition of the space we share?

Roles of Community Builders

- **Create an agenda for common caring and grace**
- **Make meaning of relationships**
- **Foster connections**
- **Support voice, visibility, and sense of mattering**
- **Help community members discover individual and shared possibilities**

As we move through these unprecedented times it is vital that we connect with the people, conversations and events that align with our values, promote healing and growth, optimize the potential of our interconnectivity and support us to be generative in the face of whatever comes.

Carolyn Myss, author of Anatomy of the Spirit



Determining Who Owns Community



What possibilities do you hold? Is there a positive future associated with those possibilities?




Demonstrate Generosity



Be Accessible – sit in the middle



Lead people, manage things



***Be creative, not eliminative - transform
eliminative conversations into
conversations of possibilities***



***Manage other's reputation as you would
manage your own***



***Reside in hope and communicate a
hopeful image of the future***



***Embody grace - be graceful, gracious
and grateful***



Elevate the sacred in your work



***Connect your head, heart and spirit
in your work as a community builder***



Whoever names it, owns it