Who Are You?
Types of Higher Education Community Engagement

- Community Service
- Service-Learning
- Community-based research
- Technical assistance
What is your Experience with Higher Education Community Engagement?
Tensions in Higher Education Community Engagement

- Higher education promotion criteria vs. community needs criteria
- Student learning needs vs. community project needs
- Research vs. action
- Charity vs. change
Added Challenges of Higher Education Community Engagement in Rural Areas

- Space and Distance
- Lack of formal organizations
- Limited number of local professionals
- Tight social networks
- Misunderstanding the rural

Higher education institutional type
- Local insider institution
- Local outsider institution
- Remote institution
Your Perceptions of Higher Education
Community Engagement
WI Research on Service-Learning with Non Profit Organizations

- Why? Mostly, distance and networks
- Does it help their productivity? Minimally
- Are they offered best practices? Not usually
Extension Educators’ Experience with Service Learning in Wisconsin

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- Why? Mostly, no one asked them
- Does it help their productivity? Minimally
- Are they offered best practices: Not usually
The Potential of Higher Education Community Engagement in Rural Areas

- A community development model
  - Starts with a community-defined issue
  - Focused on a community-defined goal
  - Led by the community
  - Engages resources other than higher ed
Questions & Resources

- Questions?
- Resources:
  - Community Development Service Learning: http://comm-org.wisc.edu/sl
  - Rural Alliance for Service Learning: http://comm-org.wisc.edu/rasl