February 22, 2011

Dear Colleagues:

We are working on an exciting initiative between the Office of the Provost and USC Government and Civic Engagement, which will support the research proposals of your faculty and strengthen the university’s research infrastructure.

As you know, many state and federal agencies require researchers to describe how the proposed research will impact the greater community, generally referred to as “broader impact.” For many scholars this is the most difficult section of their proposal to write as they struggle to identify a community with which to engage and to identify an appropriate way in which their work could have broader impact. Much of this difficulty stems from researchers being unaware of the programs and communities that USC and its researchers have already established.

It is our hope that this initiative will lessen the need to “reinvent the wheel,” function as an entry point into the community for faculty and other researchers, and build awareness across the university of these efforts. We also believe there is a tremendous opportunity to utilize USC’s community outreach efforts and to leverage existing partnerships.

The proposed initiative will create a database of “broader impact” information for use by USC researchers. The database would contain information about constituencies already engaged by USC faculty for broader impact activities and the types of activities being undertaken. In addition the database would contain other potential constituencies and the types of outreach activities that would positively impact those constituencies.

We would like to invite you to participate in the development of this initiative and attend a meeting scheduled for Friday, March 11, 2011 from 10:00-11:00, in the East Asian Seminar room in Doheny Library, DML 110C. We know that you have considerable insights into this process and would welcome your contributions.

Please RSVP to Melissa Gaeke at gaeke@usc.edu to confirm your attendance.

Regards,

Michael Quick  
Executive Vice Provost

Thomas S. Sayles  
Vice President  
Government and Civic Engagement