

- **No.13**
- **University-Community Engagement: The Lasallian Framework and Approach**

- Name: **Ma. Lourdes F. Melegrito**
  - First Name: **Ma. Lourdes**
  - E-Mail: [ma.lourdes.melegrito@dlsu.edu.ph](mailto:ma.lourdes.melegrito@dlsu.edu.ph)
  - Organisation: **De La Salle University-Manila**
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- Authors: **Ma. Lourdes F. Melegrito**

- **Abstract:**

- Universities play a vital role in social development. As the center for learning, Universities serves as a locus for academic discourse and the advancement of social theories. It is also where the social issues and goals in Philippine society are discussed and reflected upon. The continuing challenge is how the University can be truly relevant and responsive to the community and the society as a whole? Lasallian educators believe in transformative learning whereby s student-learner exercises his/her critical thinking; develops social awareness and forms Filipino conscience that is committed towards social change. At De La Salle University, venues and opportunities for self-propelled individual and collective actions must be context-sensitive so that it could be purposeful and sustainable consistent with the Lasallian development principles. Hence all social and community engagements of the University must be life affirming and mutually empowering involving the Lasallian family in partnership with larger communities, be they Church-based, multi-sectoral, or a network of civil society organizations since the ultimate goal of social transformation is to preserve and bring forth the fullness of life. University-Community Engagement describes the collaboration between higher education institutions like the De La Salle University and their larger communities (be it local, regional, national and global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. This paper hopes to provide a program framework in our intention to develop a University-Community Engagement framework that is embedded in the system and technology of the different colleges of the University; consistent with the Lasallian Guiding principles; and relevant and sensitive to the context of partner communities.