1.D - Core Component 1.D

The institution’s mission demonstrates commitment to the public good.

1. Actions and decisions reflect an understanding that in its educational role the institution serves the public, not solely the institution, and thus entails a public obligation.
2. The institution’s educational responsibilities take primacy over other purposes, such as generating financial returns for investors, contributing to a related or parent organization, or supporting external interests.
3. The institution engages with its identified external constituencies and communities of interest and responds to their needs as its mission and capacity allow.

Argument

Contributing to the public good is a theme that pervades many of CWRU's academic programs, research activities, and outreach and engagement with the community.

1) The opening words of CWRU's mission statement direct the university to improve and enrich people's lives. Furthermore, CWRU's vision statement guides the university to build on "...relationships with world-class health care, cultural, educational, and scientific institutions in University Circle and across greater Cleveland." Both of these statements commit the university to serving society.

CWRU also holds a number of annual public events that reflect the university's commitment to the public good. Examples include the Inamori Ethics Prize Lecture, the Callahan Distinguished Lecture Series, the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, Gospelfest, and the Louis Stokes Leadership Symposium.

CWRU provides a number of cultural events which are open to the public. These include various musical, theatrical, and dance performances. In addition the university partners with external organizations to deliver public programming. CWRU's partnership with the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum to deliver the annual Music Masters series is a prominent example.

The university's Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities puts on a number of public events intended to spark interest in the humanities and arts. The Leonard Gelfand STEM Center provides outreach to pre-college students with the intent to spark their interest in careers in science and engineering.

The university actively engages in collaborations with external organizations that serve the collective public good. Examples include the partnership between CWRU and the Cleveland Museum of Art to create an Institute for Art History. For more than 45 years, CWRU has collaborated with the Cleveland Institute of Music to deliver joint academic programs.

CWRU's Quality Initiative for the HLC focused on establishing interdisciplinary alliances for promoting interdisciplinary educational and research activity across the institution. Some of the alliances established under this initiative resulted in the creation of external partnerships for the purpose of promoting the public good. For example, the Origins alliance has strong connections with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and with Ideastream (the organization that provides public television and radio within the northern Ohio region) to provide content for programming. Similarly,
the Infectious Disease Alliance has direct engagement with several regional organizations, such as the Cleveland Department of Public Health, Glenville High School, the Urban League of Greater Cleveland, and several others.

Other of CWRU’s research and academic programs are focused on the public good. Examples include the Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods, the global health programs, the Healthy Smiles program within the School of Dental Medicine, and the pervasive field work that is part of the curriculum for students in the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences.

CWRU has received recognition for its contribution to the public good. The Washington Monthly provides annual rankings of universities based on their overall contribution to the public good. In 2013, CWRU ranked fourth overall and in 2014, CWRU ranked ninth in the nation. Schools are ranked based on social mobility (recruiting and graduating low-income students), research (producing cutting-edge scholarship and Ph.D. graduates), and service (encouraging students to give something back to their country). In terms of service, CWRU was ranked first in the nation in 2013 and second in 2014.

2) CWRU is a private, nonprofit, research university and as such does not have investors or a parent organization. Chapter 4, Article VIII of the Faculty Handbook contains an individual and institutional conflict of interest policy that applies to the members of the Board of Trustees, all University officers, senior officials, faculty (whether or not engaged in research or other scholarly or creative endeavors), volunteer faculty at the School of Medicine engaged in University research, post-doctoral fellows and scholars, non-faculty employees, students, and trainees.

CWRU’s audited financial statements (such as the examples from fiscal year 2013 and 2014) show that the university attempts to operate near a balanced budget, with no indication of parent organization or investors.

That education is one of CWRU’s primary responsibilities is evident from the university's statement of core values, which lists "academic excellence and impact" first.

3) CWRU's Office of Government and Foundation Relations, among many other roles, manages university outreach and engagements with Cleveland community organizations and officials. This office maintains extensive inventories of university programs that serve the community in the areas of academics, health, social service, diversity, and economic and community development. Within each category are many examples of programs through which CWRU engages and responds to external constituencies.

CWRU students have multiple opportunities to interact with external communities and perform service through the Center for Civic Engagement and Learning. This center facilitates curricular, co-curricular, and community-based work-study opportunities for Case's undergraduate, graduate, and professional school students. In addition, CWRU's Greek community (fraternities and sororities) has a strong focus on philanthropy, and its members perform up to 20,000 hours of community service activities each year. This is accomplished in a variety of ways, through large campus philanthropy events to weekly volunteer projects with community organizations. The Greek community's goal is to build awareness and to become involved in important human issues.

In addition, CWRU actively promotes community service for all students, staff, and faculty through events like the Case for Community Day event. This is a day of volunteer service for the university's faculty, staff and students who help nonprofit organizations and the neighborhoods surrounding the Case Western Reserve campus with landscaping, painting, administrative tasks, special events, and
activities with youth and seniors.

Another example of CWRU's engagement with the external community is the Provost Scholars Program which is a partnership between the university and the city schools of nearby East Cleveland. As described in its annual report, the Provost Scholars program matches East Cleveland middle and high school students with CWRU faculty and staff mentors to improve the academic and career outcomes for these students.

Sources

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- Description of Case for Community Day - from website
- Description of CWRU - Cleveland Institute of Music joint programs - from website
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- Description of Inamori Ethics Prize - from website
- Description of Music Masters® program - from website
- Field Education at MSASS - description from website
- Global Health - description of programs from website
- Greek community service and philanthropy - progress chart
- Information on Calahan Distinguished Lecture Series - from website
- Information on Mather Dance Collective 30th anniversary - from website
- Listing of academic programs - from Government Relations website
- Listing of community development programs - from Government Relations website
- Listing of diversity programs - from Government Relations website
- Listing of events and partnerships, Origins Alliance - from website
- Listing of health programs - from Government Relations website
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- Listing of service programs - from Government Relations website
- Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration events (2015)
- Mission, Vision, and Core Values statements - from 2013 Strategic Plan
- National University Rankings for service, Washington Monthly (2013)
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- Overview of Gospelfest event - from website
- Overview of Leonard Gelfand STEM Center - from website
- Overview of Louis Stokes Leadership Symposium - from website
- Overview of the Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities - from website
- Overview of the Center for Civic Engagement programs and Learning with program diagram
- Overview of the Office of Government and Foundation Relations - from website
- Overview of the Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods - from website
- Overview of the Provost Scholars program - from website
- Sample listing of events, Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities- from website
- Sample listing of music performances - from website
- School of Dental Medicine curriculum - description from website
- School of Dental Medicine curriculum - description from website (page number 3)