

# WALDEN UNIVERSITY

*A higher degree. A higher purpose.*

## Summary of Review of Social Change at Walden University (2015)

The 2015 Review of Social Change at Walden University identifies a number of initiatives that have been put in place during 2015 to actualize and support the part of the university mission that addresses social change. This document is a brief summary of the 2015 report.

### University Leadership Initiatives to Support the Social Change Mission

One of the most important social change initiatives in 2015 emerged from discussions among Walden's Board of Directors, president, and leadership teams, who agreed that Walden will move forward with development and implementation of a 5-year action plan to more fully realize its long-term commitment to social change.

Secondly, a *Social Change Working Group* was appointed as an interdisciplinary, cross-functional, and collaborative team charged with developing a plan for social change developments over the next 5 years. This working group has been very active and will be augmented in 2016 as the university continues to expand its engagement, with respect to social change, across a range of internal and external stakeholders.

### Initiatives That Promote Volunteerism and Community Involvement in Volunteerism

- The Career Services Center developed a series of webinars to promote volunteerism as a great way to earn valuable insights and work experience.
- Various Walden support services developed more flexible work-hour policies to create more opportunities for volunteerism.
- [Global Days of Service](#) in 2015 attracted more than 20,500 volunteers around the globe. Members of the Walden and Laureate communities in more than 15 countries contributed more than 125,000 volunteer hours in more than 240 service projects.
- Overall, 61% of Walden's 2015 Student Satisfaction Survey respondents indicated that they volunteered sometime during 2014, compared to a 40% national average of respondents with a bachelor's degree or higher<sup>1</sup>.
- Walden alumni who responded to the 2015 Walden Alumni Satisfaction Survey have a 64% average rate of volunteerism, compared to the national average of 25%<sup>2</sup>, and they report an increase of about 15% in their participation in volunteerism that they attribute to their Walden experience.

### Initiatives That Support the Revision of Curricula to Enhance Thinking About and Affecting Social Change

- A major initiative during 2015 has been to extend the review of curricula to include items of social change, especially using the *Curriculum Guide for Social Change*, and to both revise current courses and offer new courses that provide students with opportunities to reflect on social change and build skills to help foster social change<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *The Economics Daily: Volunteering in 2014*, on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2015/volunteering-in-2014.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2015/volunteering-in-2014.htm) (viewed online March 10, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *The Economics Daily: Volunteering in 2014*, on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2015/volunteering-in-2014.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2015/volunteering-in-2014.htm) (viewed online March 10, 2016).

<sup>3</sup> See each college's summary in the full version of *Review of Social Change at Walden University (2015)*, [ADD URL](#), for specific program and course-level details in the full Social Change review document.

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- The College of Management and Technology became a signatory to the United Nation's **Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)** initiative and will use the guidelines to help revise and improve all of its programs.
- The Walden Writing Center continued to offer a **Writing for Social Change** webinar series, which provides students with webinars that discuss the connection between writing and social change.
- The Walden Library launched the **Social Change Collection** in *ScholarWorks* in February 2015. This collection is a showcase of alumni and faculty publications that exemplify Walden's mission of positive social change.
- The [Walden Study Abroad](#) program traveled with 32 students from varying programs to Ireland, Scotland, and England.
- Walden students, alumni, and potential students were invited to share their work in social change through the [Scholars of Change](#) video contest. In 2015, five scholars each received \$7,500 plus a \$2,500 donation to the charity of their choice.
- In 2014, 78.4% of Walden students who responded to Walden's Student Satisfaction Survey reported their Walden education as "helpful" or "very helpful" in their efforts to promote positive social change.
- 87% of doctoral students who responded to Walden's 2015 Student Satisfaction Survey stated that reference to social change implications of their research was expected during all stages of their dissertation.
- 92% of recent graduates (across all program levels) who responded to Walden's 2015 Graduation Survey agreed that their program helped them to advance positive social change.

## Initiatives That Support Focused and Interdisciplinary Research and Scholarship About Social Change

- **Faculty Research Initiative Grant With Special Emphasis on Social Change.** In 2015, priority was given to grant applications that emphasize social change and foster student-faculty collaborations.
- **Social Change Impact Report Datasets:** These updated datasets are available for research by students and faculty.
- **Research and Residency Training on Social Change:** Current research course revisions and residency revisions included curricula dedicated to social change and communicating the social change impact of research.
- Under a new tab, "Faculty Resources," on the faculty portal, the "Social Change" link provides faculty members resources for teaching and learning about social change, internationalizing social change, researching social change, and reviews of social change at Walden.

## Initiatives That Support Field-Based, Community Partner Research

- **The Community Partners Study:** This study investigated student engagement in partner sites for their dissertation and doctoral study research. Findings from this study are informing research and residency curriculum to enhance student training in data collection and partner engagement.
- **Stakeholder Dissemination Initiative:** Resulting from the Community Partner Study, an initiative was put in place to support students in disseminating results to partners after research completion and helping partners use data for quality improvement.