

Aligning Civic Purpose with Widening Participation: Building Inclusive Regional Partnerships

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Connecting widening participation with the civic university mission

- Civic university mission = benefiting local people and place + embedding long-term social purpose

- Race equity initiatives as a widening participation example showing how universities can embed social purpose.

- Can universities simultaneously widen access (WP) + transform local communities (Civic mission)?



Insights from the NCIA Programme

- NCIA = Three year Research-England funded programme+ place-based collaboration + evidence for civic strategies.
- Five emerging learnings on impactful civic engagement
 - Resources (internal + external)
 - Leadership models
 - Communication
 - Storytelling and Inclusive narratives
 - Turning intention → action.

Lessons for widening participation professionals: from widening access → civic practice

- Moving beyond access to embedding place-based social purpose in strategies

- Putting equity at the core: amplifying underrepresented voices

- Regional + community engagement

Practical steps to embed civic & inclusive approaches



Closing thoughts

Can universities simultaneously widen access (WP) + transform local communities (Civic mission)?

Aligning widening participation with civic purpose requires: commitment and collaboration

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