

# Survey of Faculty Public Engagement Report

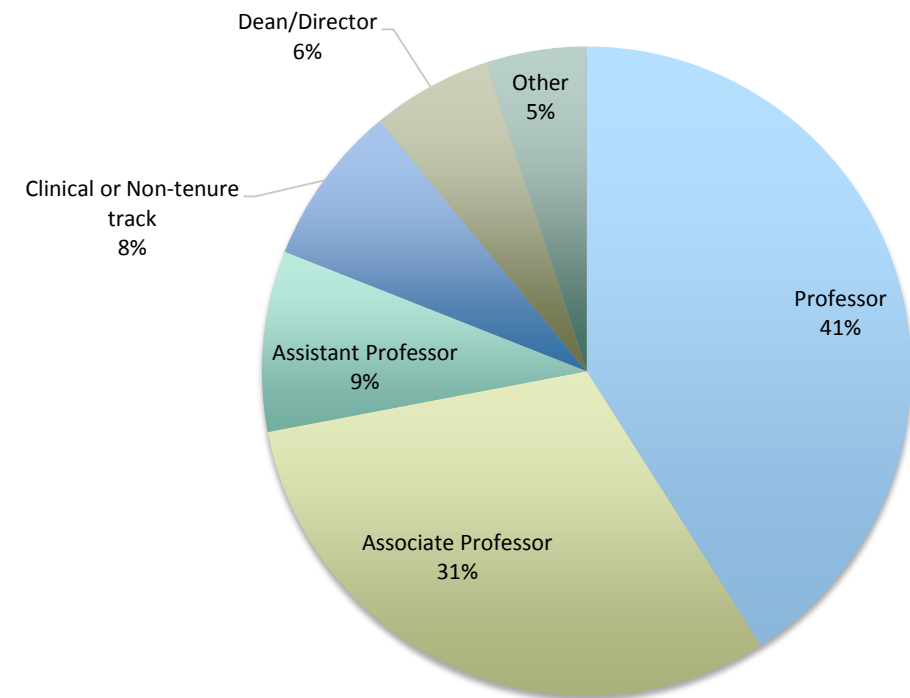
Auburn University Outreach | Office of Faculty Engagement

## Overview

- Faculty engagement in outreach and extension work is a priority in Auburn's 2013-2018 strategic plan. Outlined in "Priority 4: Enhance Public Engagement" of the plan are commitments to increase Auburn's engagement efforts in three areas: (1) workforce and economic development, (2) community health and wellness, and (3) recognition for faculty and student engagement in the university's academic culture, as well as increasing support for engagement activities and scholarship.
- In response to the Auburn University Strategic plan in 2014, faculty were invited to participate in a study designed to identify the **scope** of faculty engagement at the university (percentage of involvement, activity produced, areas of focus, etc.), as well as faculty impressions of the **value** placed upon engaged scholarship and the level of **support** for the function. This was initiated to capture important data that might inform future initiatives and incentives to support and stimulate faculty engagement at Auburn University.
- Let's take a look at the data the report provides. There were a total of 87 responses from survey participants in a variety of positions across campus.

## Breakdown of Survey Participants

- Of the 87 survey participants, 10 Colleges and Schools were represented among the participants. There were several focal points of the survey, with one being a snapshot of the number of faculty responding to the survey that have allocation percentages of work in the outreach enterprise, as compared to, instruction, research and teaching.



In 2013-14, the official percentage of workload assignments for faculty was devoted to the following:

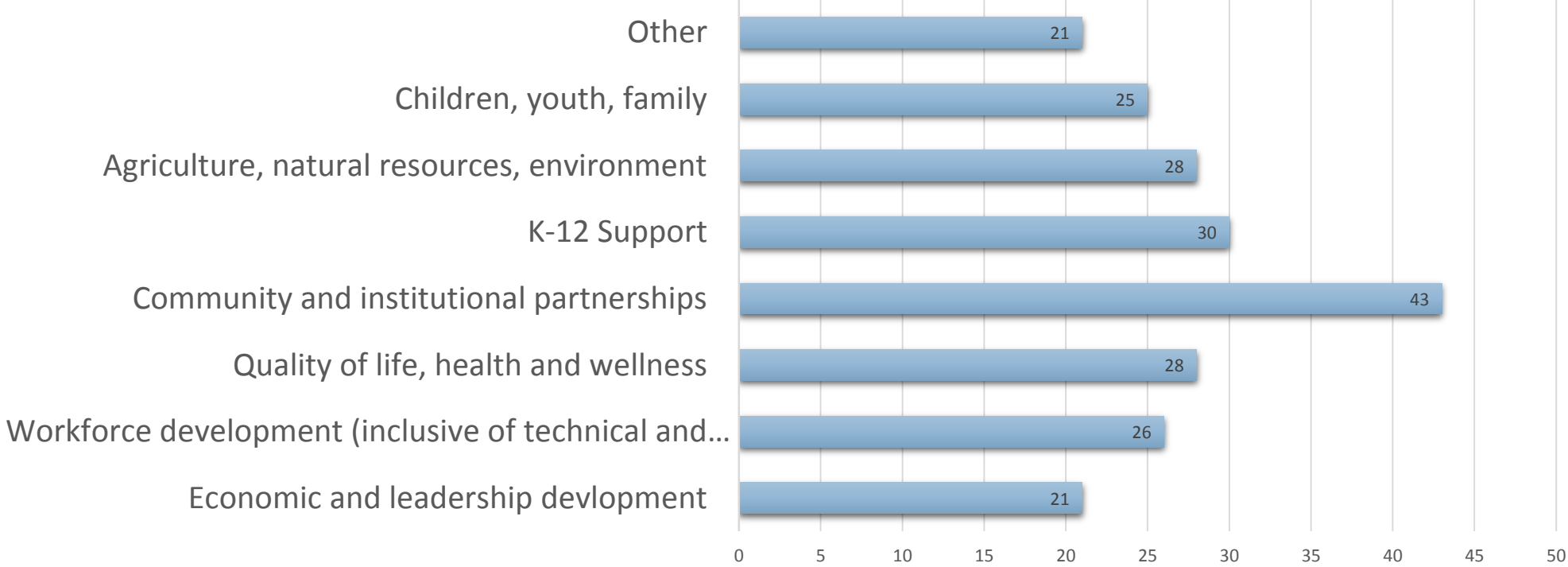
- Outreach/Extension – 16.02%
- Instruction – 46.22%
- Research/Creative Work – 36.01%
- Service – 12.01%

During this time an average of 24.21% of time spent in engaged (outreach/extension) activities.

## If you did not engage in any outreach or extension activities, please indicate why:

- Engagement (outreach/extension) is not a formal percentage of my work assignment – 71.43%
- Engagement (outreach/extension) is not recognized in my department for tenure or promotion – 28.57%
- I do not have time with all my other activities – 42.86%
- Not interested – 14.29%
- Other reasoning – 0%

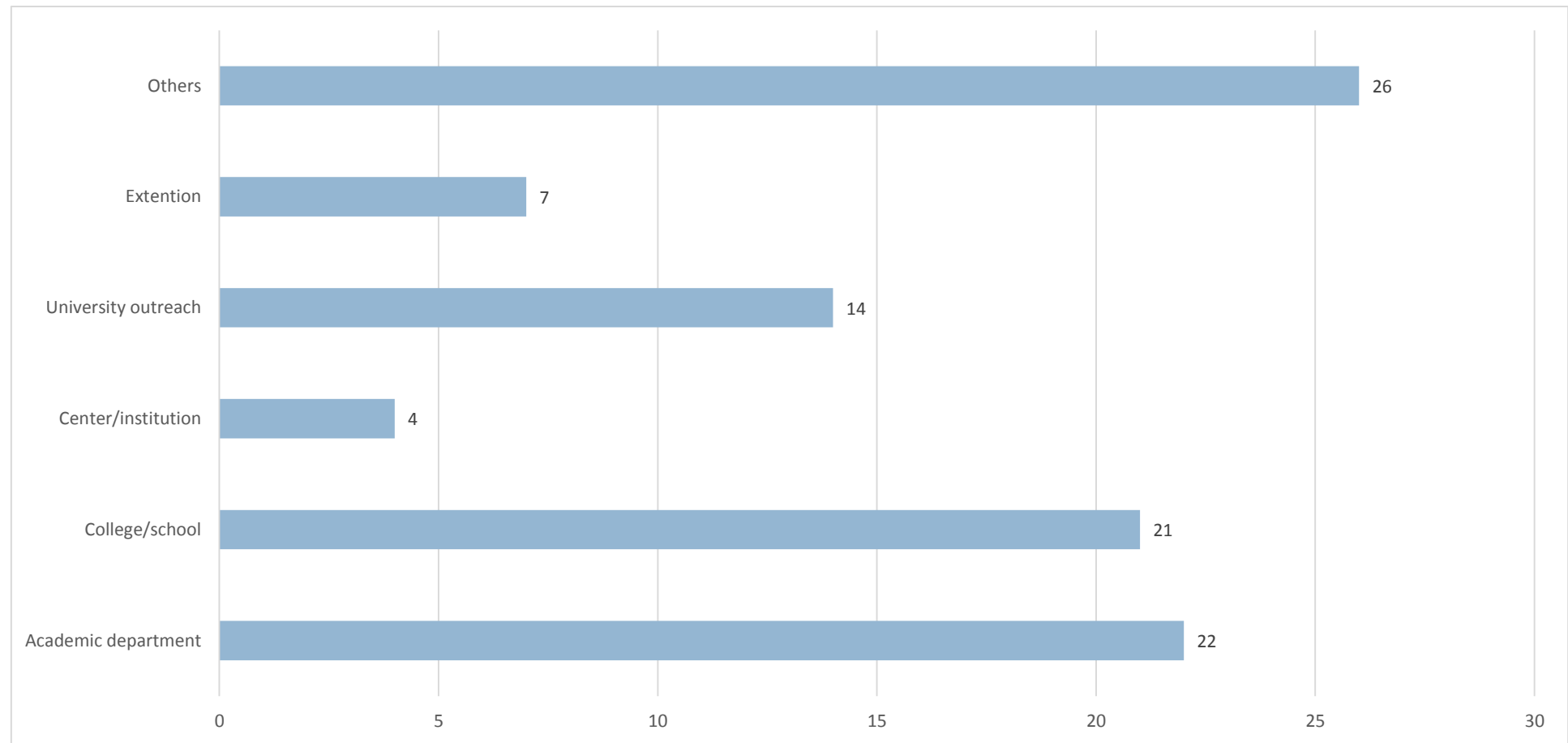
# Areas of Focus in Outreach Among Faculty



## What are the primary partners or participants for your engagement?

- Public at Large – 57.65%
- Education – 51.76%
- Professionals – 42.35%
- Government Agencies or Officials – 28.24%
- Underserved Communities – 25.88%
- Civic/Nonprofit – 22.35%
- Low Income Individuals – 17.65%
- Business Groups – 11.76%
- Alumni – 10.59%
- Hispanics – 7.06%
- Other – 8.24%

# Financial Support





## Does your engagement (outreach/extension) receive financial support from any of the following?

- Other (including grants, board of directors, external funding, government agencies, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Donors, fee for service, etc.) – 38.81%
- Academic Department – 32.84%
- College/School – 31.34%
- University Outreach – 20.9%
- Extension – 10.45%
- Center/Institute – 5.97%

## Is your engagement work support as part of an officially sponsored project of any of the following outside entities?

- Government Agency – 44.68%
- Non-profit – 31.91%
- Private Business – 21.28%
- Other (includes K-12 schools, Student Organizations, Other University Institutions) – 19.15%
- Foundation – 10.64%

-for more info...List location or contact for specification (or other related documents)

Did your engagement work generate any of the following sources of extramural funding to the university in the past academic year?

- Grants – 42.22%
- Gifts – 42.22%
- Contracts – 28.89 %
- Fees (such as continuing education courses or conference fees) – 28.89%
- State Appropriation – 15.56%
- Federal Appropriation – 4.44%

Percentage of familiarity with the organization support provided for engagement provided by University Outreach or the Alabama Cooperative Extension System:

	Not Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Familiar	Very Familiar
University Outreach	29.76%	28.57%	23.81%	17.86%
Alabama Cooperative Extension System	48.24%	20%	14.12%	17.65%

-for more info...List location or contact for specification (or other related documents)

## Do your engagement activities include student participation?

- Frequently – 48.81%
- Occasionally – 33.33%
- Not at All – 17.86%

## What is the context for your students' engagement?


- Students are registered in a service-learning class or some form of recognized curricular engagement – 37.88%
- Students are participants or volunteers in an outreach or extension project or event – 66.67%
- Other (class visitors, research fellowships, interns, assistantships – paid and unpaid, student workers) – 27.76%

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In an average academic year, Professors taught an average of 1.54 courses/academic year that has an assigned service-learning or community engaged component as part of the course requirements.

Students were estimated to have an average of 31.28 project hours required or expected of them in the fulfillment of those engaged.

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## How is your engagement in outreach and extension activity documented and recognized?

- Disciplinary referenced journal articles – 63.46%
- Other (Other Journals/Newsletters/Magazines, Internet Content, Reports, Presentations, Media, Government Publications) – 44.23%
- Books or Book Chapters – 32.69%
- Engagement-Focused Journal Articles – 9.62%



## How do you document your engagement activities as part of your overall scholarly record?

- Dossier for tenure and promotion review – 8.43%
- Digital Measures – 9.64%
- Faculty Annual Report – 63.86%
- Other – 12.05%
- Don't Document Engagement Activities – 6.02%

Do you agree with the idea that overall, engagement in outreach and extension work is a priority of the University?

- Strongly Agree – 13.79%
- Agree – 34.48%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree – 27.59%
- Disagree – 20.69%
- Strongly Disagree – 3.45%

Do you agree with the idea that engagement in outreach and extension work should be identified as a priority of the University?

- Strongly Agree – 23.33%
- Agree – 35.56%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree – 20%
- Disagree – 6.67%
- Strongly Disagree – 4.44%

Do you agree that overall, faculty engagement in outreach and extension work is encouraged at the university

- Strongly Agree – 8.05%
- Agree – 40.23%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree – 36.78%
- Disagree – 12.64%
- Strongly Disagree – 2.3%

Do you agree with that overall, your engagement in outreach and extension work is encouraged in your own department?

- Strongly Agree – 19.77%
- Agree – 40.7%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree – 19.77%
- Disagree – 16.28%
- Strongly Disagree – 3.49%

## In your opinion, what are the most significant barriers facing faculty participation in engaged activity?

- No recognized outreach or extension work assignment – 38.27%
- Restrictive Policies (such as extra compensation policies, consulting policy, etc) – 23.46%
- Restrictions on the use of extramural revenue generated – 16.05%
- Other – 13.58%
- No designation for outreach/extension on grant applications, etc. – 11.11%

## In your opinion, what are the most significant barriers facing faculty participation in engaged activity? (cont.)

- Outreach and extension work is actively discouraged – 7.41%
- Low percentage of recognized outreach or extension work assignment – 43.21%
- Limited means to document engagement in Digital Measures or in department reporting – 17.28%
- Emphasis on research and research publication – 64.20%
- Department or colleagues do not consider engagement as contributing to scholarship – 55.56%

Are you familiar with the Faculty Handbook tenure and promotion guidelines outlining the documentation process whereby outreach and extension work can be documented and counted for tenure and promotion?

### **University Outreach**

- Not Familiar – 22.81%
- Somewhat Familiar – 58.33%
- Familiar – 60.05%
- Very Familiar – 63.89%

### **Alabama Cooperative Extension System**

- Not Familiar – 77.19%
- Somewhat Familiar – 41.67%
- Familiar – 30.95%
- Very Familiar – 36.11%



In addition to those guidelines stated in the Faculty Handbook, are there any additional tenure and promotion guidelines put forth by your academic department that affects how engaged outreach and extension work should be documented and counted for tenure and promotion?

- Yes – 29.89%
- No – 70.11%