

## **Signs of a Healthy Partnership<sup>1</sup>**

*Organizational partnerships are challenging, and also deeply rewarding when designed well, patiently cultivated, and nurtured through time. Below is a list of statements that people in healthy organizational partnerships might say:*

- “In our partnership we...”:
  - ...both influence the direction and shape of our collaborations.
  - ...cultivate support and recognition of the partnership from our administrators.
  - ...try to help each other thrive beyond our direct collaborations.
  - ...enjoy spending time together.
  - ...see evidence of tangible benefits for those we serve.
  - ...communicate clearly and promptly.
  - ...focus on each other’s strengths.
  - ...are honest about our needs, capacities, and limitations.
  - ...feel empowered to use each others’ organizational resources.
  - ...have helped new people become involved and shape the work.
  - ...focus on projects that relate to our larger organizational goals.
  - ...share control of resources.
  - ...celebrate our successes.
  - ...check in regularly about how our partnership is going.

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<sup>1</sup> Inspired by Maurasse, David J., “Higher Education-Community Partnerships: Assessing Progress in the Field.” *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 31(1) 2002: 131-139.