Highlights from the work of the Office for Outreach and Agreement are described below.

C. Peter Magrath University Community Engagement Award. A joint nomination for the project Building a Local Food Economy in North Carolina through Partnership and Engagement, Center for Environmental Farming Systems on behalf of directors Nancy Creamer (NC State University) and John O’Sullivan, (NC A&T State University) was selected by APLU as the winner for the ‘1890 University’ region and will go on to compete for the national award during the upcoming National Outreach Scholarship Conference scheduled in early October of this year.

The Raleigh Colleges and Community Collaborative (RCCC). The Collaborative won a $100,000 planning grant in 2010, and a $1.3M implementation grant in 2011 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to increase the number of low income urban youth in Raleigh who achieve a post-secondary credential and living wage employment. This collaborative includes the six colleges in Wake County, the Wake County Public School System, The Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, and numerous educational, business, faith-based and non-profit agencies. The Collaborative held its kick-off session on October 31 and committed to The Raleigh Promise, which includes a Raleigh Fellows Program for high school students, Raleigh Scholars for college students, and the Raleigh College Center program to bring access to higher education into the local communities. On January 30, the City and the RCCC dedicated its first Raleigh College Center at Chavis Community Center.

Economic Metrics. The NC State University report for 2010-11 was highlighted in the Triangle Business Journal, June 29, 2011, with an article titled, “In Tough Times, Businesses reach out to NCSU for Help.” Over 33,000 citizens participated in professional development and economically beneficial certification and training programs. We sent 617 students as interns into businesses across the state, and 423 businesses contracted with NC State University for technical assistance and training programs, including Sixth Sigma, and Lean Manufacturing from IES.

Grants and Contracts. In the fiscal year 2011, faculty and extension professionals successfully competed for over $46M in public service/extension grants.

The Academy of Community Engagement Scholarship (ACES). Developing this concept and the organizational structure for an international academy that recognizes scholars and their partners for community and engagement has taken on a life of its own with thirty-six universities contributing and participating on the steering committee. With support and leadership from APLU presidents, we are pursuing grant funding for additional discussion and development of this international platform of support and recognition of engagement scholarship.