



Promoting knowledge development to support institutional change in higher education

Accelerating Systemic Change Network: A Resource for Change Agents

Andrea Beach*, Charles Henderson*, Linda Slakey[†], Maura Borrego[‡], Susan Elrod[§], Inese Berzina-Pitcher*, Jaclyn Rivard*

*Western Michigan University, [†]University of Massachusetts at Amherst, [‡]The University of Texas at Austin, [§]University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

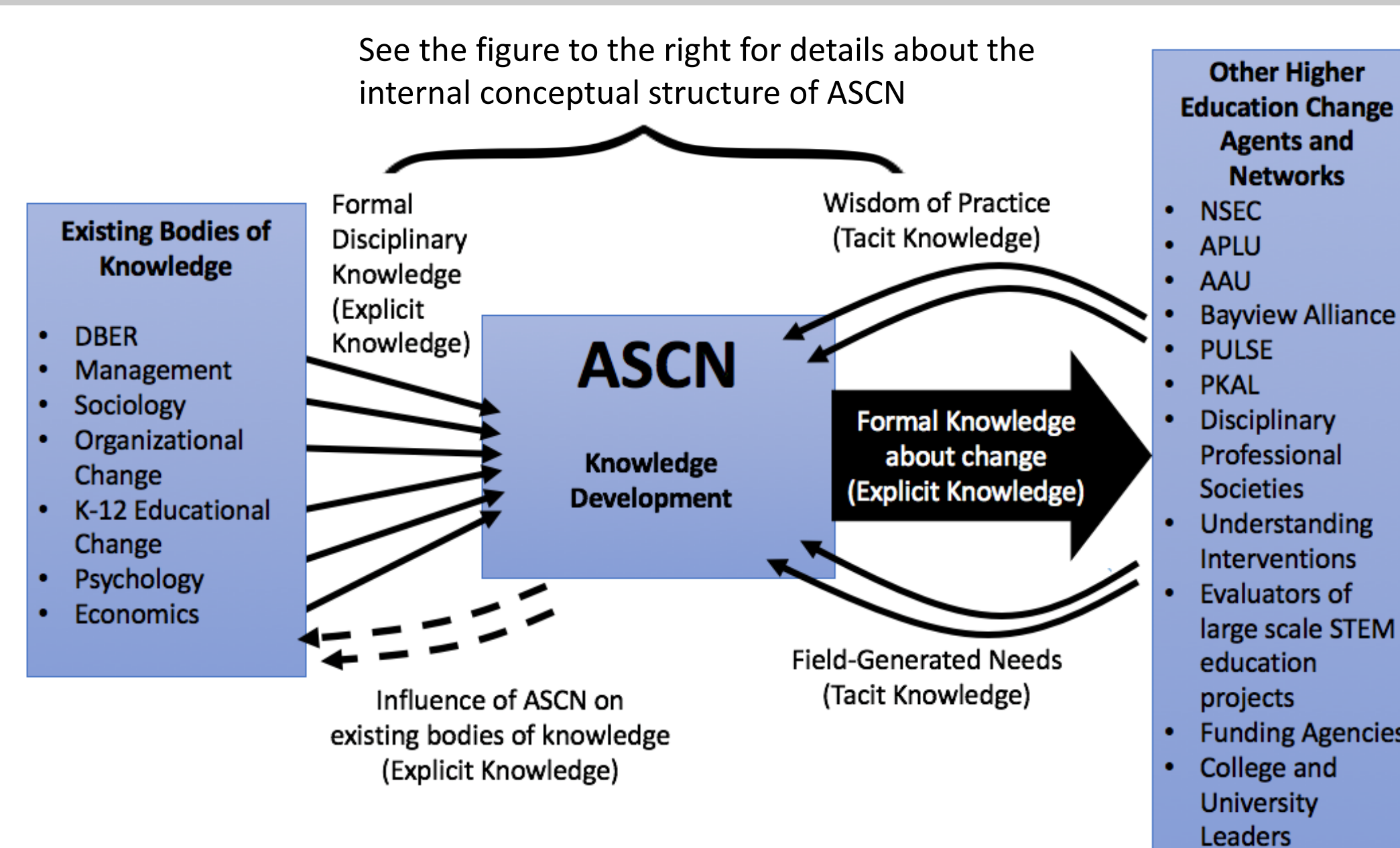
ASCN Overview

The Accelerating Systemic Change Network (ASCN) is a network of individuals and institutions, formed with the goal of more quickly advancing STEM education programs. Our unique approach is to bring together those who are **researching systemic change** at higher education institutions, with those who are **making systemic change happen** at their individual institutions. By closing the loop between researchers and change agents, we aim to accelerate change at program and institution levels, and to improve STEM education nationally.

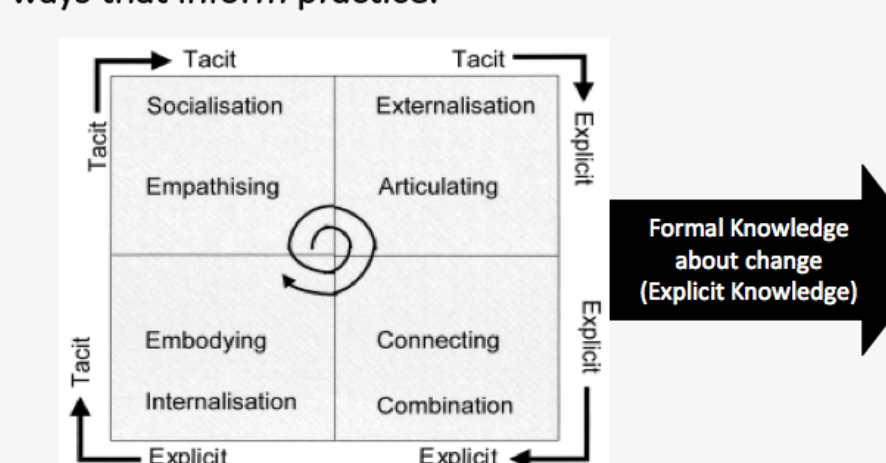
What ASCN Can Do

1. Connect people and groups: ASCN connects and provides an intellectual home for researchers and change agents working on change in higher education. ASCN connects and coordinates with other national efforts that promote change in higher education.
2. Curate resources: ASCN curates and create resources (broadly defined) that are useful for supporting the work of researchers and change agents.
3. Endorse ideas and resources: ASCN endorses and advocates for ideas and/or materials that will facilitate change in higher education

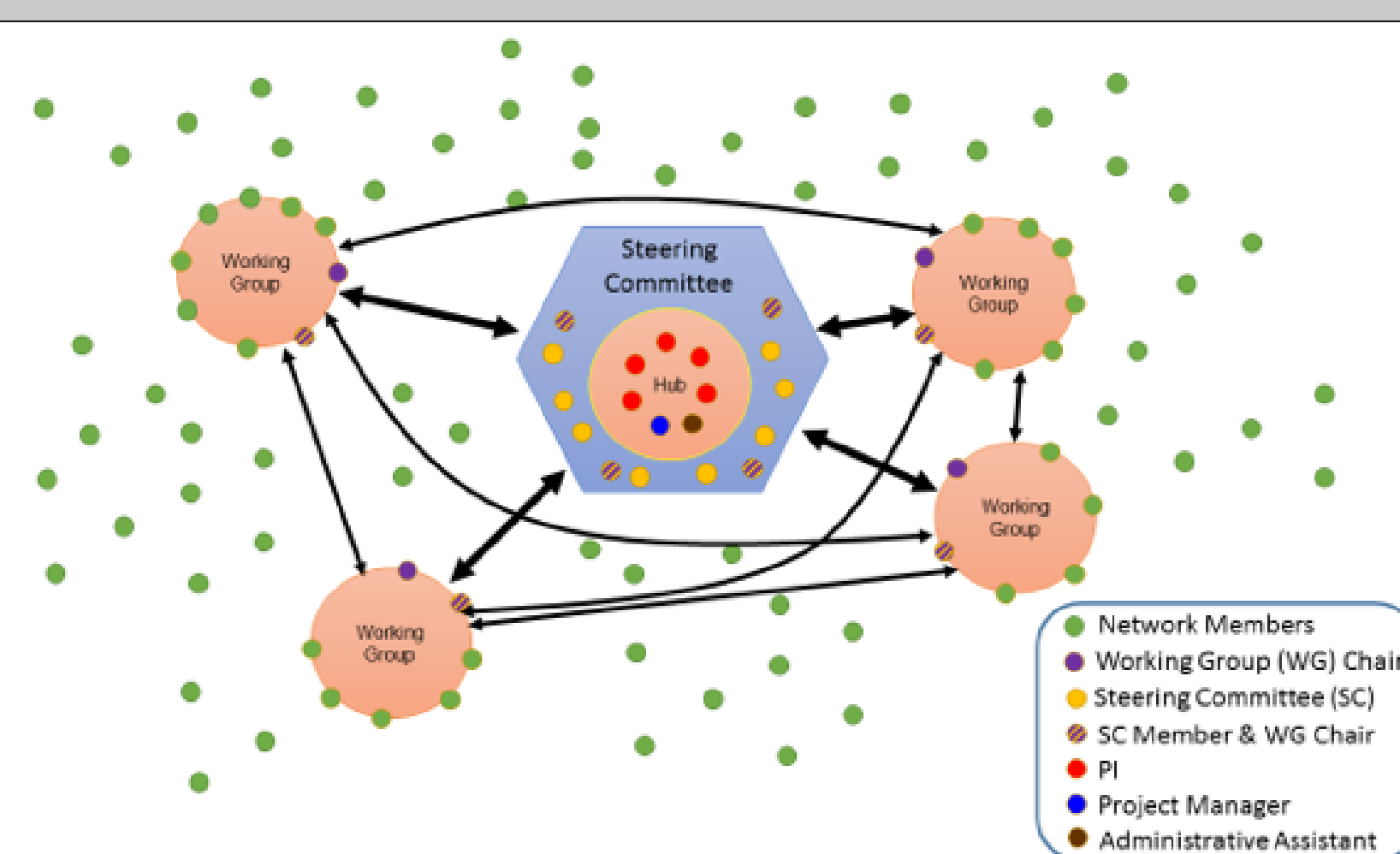
Overview of How ASCN fits within the STEM Higher Education Reform Ecosystem



The learning organization structure used by ASCN serves to build new knowledge through interactions and make this new knowledge available in ways that inform practice.



ASCN Structure



Network Members: Members can choose to interact with the network in a variety of ways. Anyone who is interested can join the network, regardless of interest in a particular working group.

Working Groups: Each working group (organized around key topics in change), will develop projects that members can choose to be involved in.

Steering Committee: Provide strategic guidance and support for the intellectual work of the community.

Network Hub: Support the work of the ASCN by developing and maintaining structures, securing funding, setting initial agendas for the network, recruiting network members, and supporting working groups.

ASCN Working Groups

Working Group 1: Guiding Theories

This working group seeks to help people engaged in change efforts to understand change theories and models that could profitably inform systemic change work. One long-term goal of this work is to build a common framework and language, with the ultimate goal of building and sharing a strong knowledge base for change in STEM Education.

Working Group 2: Costs and Benefits

This working group will explore the financial and human costs and benefits of scaling and sustaining instructional changes in undergraduate STEM. In particular, techniques and expertise from economics and related social sciences will be applied to STEM higher education in ways that resonate with network members.

Working Group 3: Change Leaders

This working group will identify important roles and activities in the change process and articulate how people in different organizational levels and positions accomplish change. They will pay particular attention to who must be engaged in change efforts, what skills they need, and how these skills can be developed.

Working Group 4: Measurement and Communication

This group's mission is to identify, explain and disseminate information on metrics that hold the potential to document, foster, accelerate, and communicate systemic change.

Working Group 5: Diversity and Inclusion

This working group will explore the intersection of our understanding of inclusion with concepts of systemic change arising from other perspectives, identify common ground, and promote opportunities for collaboration. It will interact closely with the other ASCN working groups, as well as pursuing its own synthesis of knowledge.

Working Group 6: Aligning Incentives with Systemic Change

This working group will examine the current state of evaluation of teaching, and the standing it has in the overall picture of instructor performance incentives, with a focus on practice as opposed to institutional rhetoric about valuing teaching. It will also track current experiments in bringing about change that aligns rewards with evidence-based teaching, and use ASCN resources to promulgate effective approaches.



Promoting knowledge development to support institutional change in higher education

About Us

Accelerating Systemic Change Network (ASCN) is an open, interdisciplinary, professional network and intellectual home for individuals and groups in a broad range of disciplines who are engaged in creating and/or studying change in higher education.

Overarching Principles

- Systems thinking
- Serving all students
- Breadth of perspective

ASCN Goals

- + Establish a community of change agents and researchers
- + Generate, curate, and distribute knowledge
- + Promote and support institutional change



Structure and Organization



Members

Open to anyone engaged in creating and/or studying change in higher education



Working Groups

Member-led, focusing on key topics in change



Hub

Supports development of the network and work of its members



Steering Committee

Provides strategic guidance and support for the intellectual work

Connect



THE LEONA M. AND HARRY B.
HELMSLEY
CHARITABLE TRUST

Engage with ASCN!

<http://ascnhighered.org>

Twitter: @ascnhighered

Facebook.com/ascnhighered/

