

2012 Civic Engagement Professional of the Year

Aubrey Swett – UNC Pembroke

Aubrey Swett epitomizes engagement. Upon retiring from the Marines Corps after 21 years of active duty, he worked as a nonprofit administrator before serving as UNCP's first director of the Center for Leadership and Service – now the Center for Community and Civic Engagement. Aubrey is also the Veterans Campus Coordinator at UNCP, coordinating programs and services to assist student veterans in the transition from military to the college environment; the UNCP representative to the UNC Staff Assembly; and a member of the Chancellor's task force on military and veterans outreach. He is Senior Pastor of a local church and on several community boards, including the Robeson Family Counseling Center in Lumberton.



His Provost shared that Aubrey has expanded the Center for Community Engagement significantly in both size and quality and “helped set a standard for what he terms the intentional blurring of the lines between campus and community.” The Provost also noted that Aubrey is “kind in manner, efficient in execution of his duties, and eager to lend a hand when new tasks arise” thus commanding “the respect of everyone in the administrative hierarchy.”

Aubrey inspires students with whom he works, as a student nominator shared that Aubrey demonstrates daily that “community service is not only a necessity, but truly a great way to show you care and experience new things.” Aubrey has built strong relationships with local civic leaders and non-profit organizations creating and expanding service opportunities for students in Robeson, Bladen, Hoke and Cumberland counties. While he believes strongly in growing and developing students as leaders by encouraging them to research the needs locally and take initiative to select service opportunities, one student nominator said that “he is there for the student leaders every step of the way and is always willing to give advice.” Aubrey shares his vision, commitment and heart with the entire NC Campus Compact network by serving on the Advisory Board, by participating in offered programs and grants, and by being a trusted colleague willing to support colleagues throughout the state.