

HISTORICAL TIMELINE: SMSU CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

RECENT STRUCTURAL CHANGES AT SMSU THAT SUPPORT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- *SMSU Mission (approved 2008) includes explicit statement related to promotion of civic engagement*
 - “Southwest Minnesota State University prepares students to meet the complex challenges of this century as engaged citizens in their local and global communities...”
<http://www.smsu.edu/administration/strategicplanning/missionvisiongoals.pdf>
- **Brown & Gold Task Force Goals (approved 2008) reference civic and community engagement several times**
 - 5. We are committed to being good stewards of our resources through demonstrating environmental and fiscal responsibility. Moreover, as responsible citizens and good stewards of our resources, we foster actions, programs, and scholarship that will lead to a sustainable future.
 - 7. We believe in the integration of campus and community. We are committed to being responsive to the needs of southwestern Minnesota and recognize that partnerships with community entities provide us with valuable talents and expertise.
 - 13. We believe that the southwestern Minnesota region provides rich opportunities for learning that go beyond the traditional classroom and lab setting to community-based learning experiences. Therefore, we are committed to creating a variety of applied learning experiences that enhance students’ practical problem-solving skills and strengthen their commitment to civic engagement.
- **“Engaged Citizen” LEP Learning Outcomes** : Inclusion of “practice of responsible citizenship in (their) local and global communities” as one of ten LEP learning outcomes
- **Liberal Education Program Structure:** Established structure that allows for incorporation of applied civic engagement experiences at the outset of the education experience at SMSU (i.e., LEP 100) and the conclusion of their time at SMSU (ie..g, LEP 400)
- **Strategic Direction: Community Partnership (SP 2012) - Goal 3** – “Identify community based projects and prioritize projects annually that can be completed in partnership between the identified community and SMSU through Service Learning or other campus based programs. “
- **Campus-Wide Assessment of Civic Engagement Studies (2004 and 2009)** – Have comprehensive evaluations of civic engagement at SMSU for use as benchmarks for evaluating civic engagement
- **Annual Evaluation of Civic Minded Graduate Scale (2009- 2014):** Mechanism for annual evaluation of civic engagement attitudes, values, and skills via the completion of the Civic Minded Graduate scale by all graduating seniors (collaboration between Center for Civic Engagement and SMSU Registration Office)

- **Center for Civic Engagement Website based mechanisms for gathering civic engagement data in an integrated and efficient manner to track the following:**
 - Civic engagement activities of campus groups---student clubs, residence life halls, athletics, and other groups
 - Service-learning and other forms of “civic engagement in the classroom”
 - Service-learning outcomes (in-process)
 - Needs of community entities (social services, faith-based organizations, advocacy coalitions, etc.)
- **Center for Civic Engagement administrative location that “bridges” Academic Affairs and Student Affairs**
 - Center for Civic Engagement is structurally accountable to the Provost (thus, serves interests of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs)

HUMAN AND FISCAL RESOURCES

- **VISTA Staff Coordinator for Civic Engagement (2003-2006, 2008-09) – 40 hrs/week**
 - VISTA funded by AmeriCORPS ViSTA Program via the Minnesota Literacy Council
 - Sustainability Learning Community Coordinator (2009-10)- Primary focus on sustainability programming and less focus on civic engagement in general*
 - No VISTA Staff Coordinator *primarily* focused on civic engagement programming (2009 – 2013)
- **Student Staff – interns, scholarship mentees, work study students, and graduate assistant**
 - Graduate Assistant (1/year) – 2008-14) – 14 hrs/wk
 - Student Staff (avg of 6/yr – 2008-14) – Range of 5-15 hrs/wk
- **Faculty Coordinator(s) for Civic Engagement**
 - **Faculty Coordinator (2003-2012)** - allocated 3 cr reassigned time several years, followed by two years of 6 credits reassigned time, then 3 credits/yr past few years
 - **Faculty Co-Coordinators (2012-13)** Currently 3 credits/yr shared by Co-Chairs for the Center for Civic Engagement (1 cr/yr for assessment role and 2 cr/year for Student Staff Orientation, Training, Supervision and Program Development)
- **Proposed Staff Coordinator Position: Annual request to SMSU administration for support of ¼ time, ½ time or full time Staff Coordinator position since 2007 (declined)**
 - Staff Coordinator position description articulated and approved by MnSCU
 - Need for year-to-year continuity in staffing (even if just ¼ time Staff Coordinator position) to free up use of faculty and student staff resources for tasks other than orientation/training of new student staff each semester/year
 - Enhanced capacity for ongoing assessment data collection, data entry and analysis with Staff Coordinator position
 - Enhanced capacity for faculty development and overall new program development with Staff Coordinator position

- **Faculty Advisory Committee for Civic Engagement** (interdisciplinary group of faculty—representing approximately 10 academic disciplines in any given year - guiding civic engagement programming and evaluation)
 - **2003- 2005: Faculty Advisory Committee for American Democracy Project** (SMSU's involvement with AACSCU's American Democracy Project)
 - **2005 - 2009: Faculty Advisory Committee for Civic Engagement and the First Year Experience**
 - Both the FYE and Faculty Advisory Committee for Civic Engagement advised on Center for CE/FYE activities.
 - VISTA and Student Staff responsible for logistical implementation of civic engagement and First Year Experience programs.
 - Expanded budget from \$2000/yr to approximately \$8000 during this timeframe(plus additional funding for keynote speakers –George McGovern, Paul Loeb, and Winona LaDuke)
 - **2009 - 2014: Faculty Advisory Committee for Civic Engagement**
- **Student Affairs Advisory Committee for Civic Engagement**
 - Student Affairs Advisory Group for Civic Engagement (2004-2007)
 - Faculty Co-Cordinator for Civic Engagement and selected student staff meet individually and regularly with Student Services staff in Residential Life, Student Activities, and Office of Student Success (2007-2014)

SELECTED INITIATIVES COORDINATED BY THE CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- **Volunteer and Service-Learning Fair (April 2014)**
- **ELECTION 2012** (Aug-Nov 2012)
- **FreeRiceCHALLENGE - Anti-Hunger Initiative** (Feb-March 2012)
- **MECLA - SMSU Career Development Mentoring Partnership** (2007-2010)
- **LYND – SMSU After School Tutoring Program** (2007-2012)
- **FYE INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING THEMES:** Coordination of all First Year Experience Keynote Addresses, theme-based follow-up events and evaluation of outcomes of these events:
 - **2005 Dennis Donovan (Topic: Public Achievement/Grass Roots Change)**, Center for Citizenship and Democracy at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute
 - **2006 Former Senator George McGovern** (Topic: Ending Hunger in Our Time)
 - **2007 Paul Loeb** (Topic: Soul of a Citizen), social activist/author, Seattle Center for Ethical Leadership <http://www.paulloeb.org/>
 - **2008 Winona LaDuke** (Topic: indigenous Perspectives on Sustainability) <http://marshallindependent.com/page/content.detail/id/504428/speaking-on-sustainability.html>
- **Civic Engagement Forum: Showcasing Innovative Community Solutions through Civic Engagement and Campus-Community Partnerships** (2008, Nov)

SMSU PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS and INITIATIVES AIMED AT PROMOTING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- **Campus Compact** <http://www.compact.org/>
 - Member of Minnesota Campus Compact Organization – 2002-2009
 - Membership was cancelled by SMSU Administration in 2010. Faculty Advisory Committee requested that our membership be renewed each year from 2010-2013. Membership was not renewed, noting budgetary concerns. During these years, faculty, staff and students were not able to continue making use of grant and consulting services, which had been done frequently from 2003-2009.
 - Membership was renewed by President Gores upon her arrival in Summer 2013. President Gores is also taking a lead role with Mn Campus Compact and encouraging extensive use of MCC by SMSU faculty, staff and students.
- **AASCU *American Democracy Project*** – 2003-2009 <http://www.aascu.org/programs/ADP/>
 - Several SMSU faculty and Center for Civic Engagement staff regularly attended and presented at annual ADP meetings (while SMSU was participant campus) from 2003- 2009.
 - Membership in AASCU was cancelled by Administration in 2009. The Faculty Advisory Committee for Civic Engagement requested that our membership be renewed each year from 2009-2013. Membership was not renewed, noting budgetary concerns. During these years, faculty, staff and students were not able to continue making use of grant, consulting and other resources, which had been done frequently from 2003-2009. SMSU had been actively involved in the American Democracy Project prior to cancellation of our campus membership in AASCU and no longer being involved in ADP made it more difficult to continue building on momentum we had had to that point.
- **AACU – Core Commitments: Education for Personal and Social Responsibility**
https://www.aacu.org/core_commitments/index.cfm 2007--2014
 - SMSU Faculty and Administration have been actively involved with numerous conferences, workshops, trainings, etc. related to the AACU Core Commitments: Education for Personal and Social Responsibility initiative

EXAMPLES OF SERVICE-LEARNING AND OTHER FORMS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM

- **Dr. Scott Peterson - PSYCHOLOGY** - Students enrolled in a Developmental Psychology may opt to volunteer area sites for 20 hours as a means of adding depth to their understanding of developmental constructs, while addressing area needs.
- **Dr. Tom Williford - HISTORY** - Students subscribe to The New York Times at a discounted rate through SMSU's participation in the *NY Times in COLLEGE Program* and bring their newspapers to class to discuss contemporary global issues.
- **Dr. Will Thomas -ACCOUNTING-** Students serve on local boards and assist with tax preparation.
- **Dr. Rick Robinson and Dr. Donna Niekula – SOCIAL WORK** – Students assisted with Election 2012 get out the vote efforts and community-based homelessness awareness initiative
- **Dr. David Sturrock - POLITICAL SCIENCE** - Students conduct exit polls during election years.
- **Dr. Emily Deaver - ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE** - SMSU students work collaboratively with Marshall High School students to gather data related to water quality/ecosystem status of the Redwood River through the now multi-year Redwood River Monitoring Project.
- **Dr. Kerry Livingston - SOCIOLOGY** - Students enrolled in an online Social Problems course may opt to locate service opportunities in the Marshall area or broader SW Minnesota region as a means of increasing their understanding of factors that contribute to a variety of social problems covered in this course.
- **Dr. Christine Olson - PSYCHOLOGY** - Students enrolled in General Psychology and Psychology Seminar could, for extra credit, become involved in 15-20 hours of Election 2012 processes (e.g., assisting with voter registration, canvassing, assisting with coordination of public forums for local candidates) as a means of gaining a better understanding "efficacy/motivation for social change".
- **Dr. Rick Herder, Dr. Christine Olson, and Dr. Will Thomas - CONTEMPORARY ISSUES** --Faculty include consideration of various forms of civic engagement to address social problems such as human trafficking, addressing the needs of single-parent households in the area, assisting with prevention of irresponsible driving, and addressing the needs of new immigrant members of Marshall area communities (to name a few).

RESOURCES ACQUIRED BY SMSU FACULTY

The following acquisition of grants to support integration and evaluation of civic engagement in course instruction is a concrete indication of the intrinsic faculty motivation to support fostering of students' sense of themselves and as "engaged citizens". Recent campus-wide assessments of civic engagement in 2004 and 2009 corroborate this high valuing of valuing of civic engagement pedagogy.

Sample Grant Resources Acquired by SMSU Faculty that Support Civic Engagement Programming and Evaluation

Post-Secondary Service-learning and Campus-Compact Collaboration Grant (\$10,000) *Bridging academic and student affairs through campus-wide assessment of civic engagement.*
Mn Campus Compact – Acquired June 2008 -CMO

VISTA Position Grant (~\$15,500 salary/ed award per year---renewable over five years, assuming incremental match by SMSU) Minnesota Literacy Council – Acquired March 2008 -CMO

MNSCU, IPESL Grant (\$25,000) Integrating civic engagement learning outcomes with liberal arts core learning outcomes – Acquired October 2006 - CMO

VISTA Position Grant (approx \$45,000 salary/ed award over three year period) Minnesota Literacy Council – Acquired March 2003-2006 -CMO

MNSCU Learning that Lasts Grant (\$13,500). Promoting and assessing engaged learning at Southwest Minnesota State University. Minnesota State College and University System – Acquired March 2003-CMO

Marshall United Way (\$3,000) After-school literacy program for new immigrant children Acquired March 2004 – Co-authored with Christine Bendel - CMO

MNSCU Learning by Doing Grant (\$4000). Minnesota State College and University System – Acquired March 2000- CMO

Minnesota Campus Compact Civic Engagement Mini-Grant (\$750) – Acquired October 2002-CMO

FIG Grants - Several members of the Faculty Advisory Committee for Civic Engagement awarded SMSU Faculty Improvement Grants that and MnSCU grants that have enhanced their capacity to incorporate service and other forms of civic engagement into their instruction

FORMS OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT (2003-2014)

- **Renewal by President Gores of SMSU membership in both Mn Campus Compact** (renewed in Fall 2013) and **AASCU American Democracy Project** (renewed AASCU in Summer 2013; ADP in Fall 2014)
- **Match funding to support MN Campus Compact administered HealthCorps VISTA Position for 2014-2015**
- **Strong, visible leadership by President Gores in advocating for building infrastructure of support for civic engagement and strengthening campus-community relationships** (2013-2014)
- **First Year Experience funds for Keynote Lectures** (2006-09) – Increase in allocation of funds for Center for CE Budget and Foundation resources for First Year Experience/Civic Engagement keynote lectures and related events
- **Conference support** (2003-2009)- Provost and Dean's Offices supported the participation of SMSU faculty involved with civic engagement in five of seven AASCU American Democracy Project Annual Meetings, along with involvement in other relevant conferences, such as AACU's *Civic learning at the intersections* (Oct 2007)
- Several members of the Faculty Advisory Committee for Civic Engagement awarded **SMSU Faculty Improvement Grants** that and **MnSCU grants** that have enhanced their capacity to incorporate service and other forms of civic engagement into their instruction (see examples of resources acquired above)
- **Student staff**—There has been an increase in access to student resources- specifically, Mentor Scholarship students, interns, student workers, and graduate assistant- assigned to Center for CE
- **Physical Space** - Have relocated Office of Civic Engagement/FYE to a larger, centrally located site on SMSU Campus
- **Operating Budget** – Current annual allocation \$2000 (plus upcoming funds to restore membership in Mn Campus Compact membership 2013-2014)

SAMPLE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT and CAMPUS-WIDE PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOPS

- Several faculty who serve on the Faculty Advisory Committee for Civic Engagement have been actively involved with committees over the past ten years that have created an SMSU infrastructure of support for civic engagement, serving on committees/taskforces such as the following (for example):
 - Brown and Gold Taskforce: Mission, Vision, and Goals
 - LEP Planning Committees (focused upon articulating outcomes and implementing LEP)
 - Strategic Planning Day Events (active participants)]
 - Assessment Day Events (actively involved with identifying means of evaluating LEP outcomes, including “engaged citizen” outcomes)
- SMSU Strategic Planning Day: Campus-wide Assessment of Civic Engagement (Jan 2009)
- *Faculty orientation to IDST Making a Difference Course* (FYE course) (May 2008)
- *Civic learning outcomes: Interdisciplinary perspectives.* *New Work* panel involving four faculty who had participated in the IPESL workshop (April 2008)

- Interdisciplinary workshops – IPESL Grant Funded - *Integrating civic engagement learning outcomes with liberal arts core learning outcomes* (Summer 2007)
- *All University Meetings* focusing on First Year Experience and Civic Engagement (2003-2009, upcoming 2013 Lunch and Learn)
- *Use of NY Times in the Classroom* (Faculty Development Day, Fall 2005)
- *Nuts and Bolts of Service-Learning* (Faculty Development Day, Fall 2004)
- *Community-Based Learning: Lessons Learned* (New Work Presentation, Sept 2004)

EXAMPLE PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS (Need to gather additional information from faculty other than Co-Coordinator of Civic Engagement presentations/publications noted below.)

Professional

- Olson, C., Redig, N., & Heggsth, N. (2009). *Campus inventory of civic engagement: Springboard for enhancing civic engagement and First Year Experience “sustainability “ theme program.* Presentation at 7th Annual Meeting of the American Democracy Project, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Baltimore, MD.
- Olson, C., Heggsth, N., Redig, N., Deaver, E., Peterson, S., Schultz, M., & Pagel, A. (2009). *SMSU Campus-wide inventory of civic engagement: Process and outcomes.* Poster presentation at 7th Annual Meeting of the American Democracy Project, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Baltimore, MD.
- Olson, C. (2007). *SMSU Civic engagement and learning theme-based First Year Experience.* Poster presentation at 7th Annual Meeting of the American Democracy Project, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Baltimore, MD.
- Olson, C. (2006) *Interdisciplinary hunger theme based approach to First Year Experience: Structure and challenges.* Presentation at the 3rd Annual Meeting of the American Democracy Project, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Snowbird, UT.
- Olson, C. & Nielson, P. (2005) *Creating an infrastructure for civic engagement with a limited budget.* Presentation at MnSCU Center for Teaching and Learning/MN Campus Compact, Saint Paul, MN
- Olson, C. & Nielson, P. (2006). Involving students in campus-wide assessment of civic Engagement. Chapter in Jones and Perry (Eds.) *Quick Hits in Civic Engagement*, Indianapolis: University of Indiana Press.
- Olson, C. (2004). *Assessment of campus civic engagement at Southwest Minnesota State University.* Poster Session at the 2nd Annual Meeting of the American Democracy Project, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Albuquerque, NM.
- Olson, C. (March, 1990). *Enhancing college student activism: Implications of self- efficacy theory.* Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Counseling and Development, Cincinnati, OH.

Campus/Community Presentations

- Olson, C. (April, 2008). *Civic engagement at Southwest Minnesota State University.* Presentation for the Marshall area Sunrise Rotary Club, Marshall, MN.

Olson, C. (January, 2008). *Self-efficacy perspective on activism and global climate change*. Panel presentation on topic of Global Climate Change, Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, MN.

Olson, C., Deaver, E., Thomas, W., and Williford, T. (April 2008). *Civic learning outcomes: Interdisciplinary perspectives. Moderated New Work panel involving four faculty who had participated in the IPESL workshop*, SMSU, Marshall, MN.

Olson, C. (June, 2007). *Development of civic engagement learning outcomes*. IPESL funded workshop involving nine SMSU faculty from cross-section of disciplines, SMSU, Marshall, MN.)

SUPERVISED STUDENT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Nielson, B., Schultz, D., Anderson, D., Thullien, T., & Bendel, C. (2004). *Quantitative and qualitative assessment of student services based civic engagement activities, attitudes, and resources at rural, public liberal arts university*. Poster presentation at the Minnesota Undergraduate Research Conference, St. Paul, MN.

Schultz, D. & Bendel, C. (2004). *Quantitative and qualitative analysis of faculty attitudes, needs, and resources related to civic engagement*. Poster presentation at the Minnesota Undergraduate Research Conference, St. Paul, MN.

Schultz, D. Anderson, D., Mars, R., Trautman, C. Schneider, C. Pivec, M., & Robinson, K., (2004). *Assessment of student civic engagement attitudes, activities, and resources at a rural, public liberal arts university*. Poster presentation at the Minnesota Undergraduate Research Conference, St. Paul, MN.

Trautman, C., Schneider, C., Schulz, D., Thullien, T., Pivec, M., Maras, R. (2004). *Structured interview study of faculty civic engagement perceptions and activities at a rural, public liberal arts university*. Poster presentation at the Minnesota Undergraduate Research Conference, St. Paul, MN.