

## Civic and Community Engagement SMSU 2004-2014

### EVIDENCE OF INTENTIONAL EFFORT TO CREATE CAMPUS INFRASTRUCTURE OF SUPPORT FOR CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

□ **Have maintained regional and national references point while intentionally considering SMSU efforts to foster sense of “Engaged Citizen” in students while serving regional needs**

- Maintained membership in relevant national organizations –AACU, AASCU, and MN Campus Compact ---- allowing for participation in initiatives noted below and access to grant and workshop/consultation resources provided by these entities, which has been actively used by faculty, staff and administration
  - Lead role in sponsoring regional discussion in collaboration with Mn Campus Compact (see below)
  - Lead campus member in Mn Campus Compact with respect to being awarded grant funding for two comprehensive campus-wise assessments of civic and community engagement programming (2004 and 2009—insert links to reports)
  
- Active administration/faculty involvement in numerous national higher education initiatives related to promotion of civic engagement in higher education, through membership in higher education associations noted above
  - Note specific involvement with:
    - **AASCU American Democracy Project – 2003-2009** (founding member campus of American Democracy Project, sponsored by American Association of State Colleges and Universities <http://www.aascu.org/programs/ADP/> )
      - Several SMSU faculty and Center for Civic Engagement staff have attended and presented at annual ADP meetings (while SMSU was participant campus) ; initiated by Provost and involving active interdisciplinary group of faculty committed to thoughtful integration of civic engagement in course instruction--- collectively, numerous grants acquired, presentations and publications attest to this commitment
      - Membership not renewed in 2009 (budgetary constraints noted).
      - Membership renewed in 2013 with arrival of President Gores. Participating campus in American Democracy Project
    - **AACU – Core Commitments: Education for Personal and Social Responsibility** (participating campus from 2007-2013 [https://www.aacu.org/core\\_commitments/index.cfm](https://www.aacu.org/core_commitments/index.cfm))- Faculty, administration and staff involved with national conferences, campus-based webinars, and use of AACU Personal and Social Responsibility related rubrics in assessment of civic engagement.
      - Increased activity by SMSU faculty in AACU conference related to civic engagement after membership was discontinued with AASCU/American Democracy Project.
    - **Mn Campus Compact Member** campus for majority of past ten years (i.e., Member of Minnesota Campus Compact Organization – 2002-2009, [www.campuscompact.org](http://www.campuscompact.org) ); made extensive use of their resources from 2003-2009---assistance with setting up infrastructure of support for civic and community engagement; development of broad conceptualization of civic engagement; structure for ongoing assessment of process and outcomes related to civic engagement programming in academic and student service spheres.

- Membership not renewed in 2009-2013 (budgetary constraints noted)
  - Membership renewed 2013-2014 with arrival of President Gores.
- **Regular participation by faculty, staff and administrators in campus-based webinars, regional conferences, and national conferences** related to civic engagement in higher education to draw from national reference point
- Allocation of funds for SMSU participation in assessment efforts – NSSE and HERI surveys
    - Administration of NSSE (2004, 2008, 2011 and 2013), along with Campus-Community Inventory of Civic Engagement (2004, 2009), and HERI Faculty Survey (2006), providing us with national reference point for how we are doing as campus with civic and community engagement

□ **SMSU's Assumption of lead role in coordinating MnSCU regional discussions about civic engagement in higher education**

- Hosting of regional forums related to civic engagement in higher education. For example, SMSU hosted *Civic Engagement Forum: Showcasing Innovative Community Solutions through Civic Engagement and Campus-Community Partnerships (2008, Nov)* involving faculty, staff, students, community members, Presidents of other private and public 2 yr and 4yr campuses in region, and co-coordinated with MN Campus Compact
- Have drawn insights from other model programs nationally and regionally while coordinating these events (e.g., recent Keynote Address by Judith Ramaley, nationally recognized leader regarding civic and community engagement in higher education, on our campus where she outlined national trends for civic engagement in higher ed)
  - SMSU's intentional programming and infrastructure change related to civic and community engagement has been in sync with national trends (see Ramaley and MnCampus Compact depictions of the “engaged campus”)

□ **Broad conceptualization of civic and community engagement (consistent with national trend)**

- Broad conceptualization of Civic and Community Engagement(see <http://www.smsu.edu/campuslife/civicingagement/?id=8476>) is in sync with---growth over past ten years parallels---national trends (insert link to Ramaley report and Mn Campus Compact Model of the Engaged Campus)
- Examples from Academic and Student Affairs of creating variety of forms of civic engagement opportunities for students:
  - BEING INFORMED –SMSU has been member of NYTimes Readership Program most of last ten years, initiated by President Danahar (eg. Faculty have made use of NYTimes as text in history and psychology courses; in recent campus wide surveys, fostering “informed citizenry” form of civic engagement is one of main ways faculty promote civic engagement in their course instruction
  - VOLUNTEERING—See examples in Student Services, Residential Life, and Athletics noted above
  - SERVICE-LEARNING—See examples from various disciplines noted above, including LEP 100 and LEP 400 that require student to address issues of concern using multiple forms of civic engagement
  - CIVIC DISCOURSE—See hosting of regional forums noted above; faculty requiring students to express views in form of writing letters to editors; serving on local non-profit boards
  - VOTING—Active involvement of student government, volunteers in student clubs, and service-learning students from courses in multiple disciplines in Election 2012 (and 2004; 2008)
  - LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS—reference Scott Ewing’s Leadership -----;
  - CLUB/ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP – get information from Scott Ewing on number of clubs/organizations; encouragement of service through SAFAC funding process; recent (past year) incorporation of co-curricular transcript in conjunction with Registrar’s Office

- SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS/PROGRAMMING – note Sustainability Learning Community; collaboration with regional AmeriCorps GreenCorps by hosting GreenCorps Member in SMSU residential life  
(See SMSU Center for Civic Engagement for additional examples and resources  
<http://www.smsu.edu/campuslife/civicengagement/>)

#### □ **Recent (2003-2013) structural changes at SMSU to support civic and community 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 Outcome: 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.... Multiple discussions related to valuing of civic and community engagement through strategic planning days (e.g. primary focus of 2009 Strategic Planning Day, used as means of gathering data from Academic, Student Affairs and Athletics for 2009 Campus-Wide Assessment of Civic Engagement – insert link to report)
- 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
  - Augmented with national reference point provide by administration of NSSE and HERI surveys noted above

#### □ **Maintained assessment priority for gauging nature of civic and community engagement programming, frequency of involvement in various forms, assessment of outcomes related to fostering student’s sense of self as “engaged citizen” and serving regional needs**

- Annual Evaluation of Civic Minded Graduate Scale (2009- 2012): 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.)
- “Engaged Citizen” as assessment focus this year 2013-14 for collaborative Committee for Institutional Assessment and Liberal Education Program Committee “AHA” Committee, including broad representation from members of curricular and co-curricular campus spheres.
- Pilot evaluation of outcomes of incorporating civic engagement at front and back ends of student learning at SMSU through sections of LEP 100-First Year Seminar and LEP 400-Contemporary Issues in 2013-14.

□ **Systematic efforts to “bridge” Academic Affairs and Student Affairs while developing programs, collaborative program development, shared use of funding sources, and gathering/evaluating assessment data related to civic and community engagement**

- Center for Civic Engagement is structurally accountable to the Provost (thus, serves interests of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs)
- LEP “Engaged Citizen” learning outcome, as noted above, is priority for CIA/LEP assessment efforts this academic year, with evaluation mechanisms and resources being used from both curricular and co-curricular areas
- Recent multi-year First Year Experience Inter-disciplinary Learning Themes, that incorporated civic engagement focus in annual Keynote Address, followed by variety of related civic engagement events and programs throughout the year.

-The process of initiating this Interdisciplinary Civic Engagement Theme based First Year Experience was collaboration between curricular (i.e. Interdisciplinary Faculty Advisory Committee for Civic Engagement) and co-curricular committees (i.e., First Year Experience Committee, with membership from both academic and student services units). In addition, for logistical programming and outcome assessment needs, a VISTA Coordinator for Civic Engagement was used as a full-time staffing resource made possible through a SMSU-Minnesota Literacy Council partnership. Funding for FYE Learning Themes noted below came from pools came from President’s Office, student service units, and faculty acquisition of relevant grants.

- **FYE/CIVIC ENGAGEMENT INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING THEMES:**
  - **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
  - **2008 Winona LaDuke (Topic: indigenous Perspectives on Sustainability)**
- Current LEP 100 First Year Seminar collaboration with Mustang Mentor Program and Office of Student Success, with student mentors assisting pilot group of faculty instructors of the First Year Seminar with incorporating civic component into course instruction