Civic Engagement Education and Assessment

Friday, June 9, 2017

William & Mary School of Education
301 Monticello Avenue
Williamsburg, VA 23185

All sessions will be in the Matoaka Woods room unless otherwise noted.

9:00 – 10:00 Check-in

10:00 – 10:15 Welcome & Opening Remarks
W. Taylor Reveley, III, President of the College of William & Mary

10:15 – 10:50 SCHEV Expects Us to Do What?
Jodi Fisler, SCHEV Associate for Assessment Policy & Analysis

10:50 – 11:50 Why Civic Engagement May Be The Most Essential Skill for the 21st Century and How We Can Own It
Ashley Finley, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Dominican Experience, Dominican University of California

Learning in the twenty-first century has been contextualized by a number of factors that have profoundly shaped (and reshaped) higher education. As everyday life has been dramatically altered through increasing levels of interconnectivity and application in an expanding global world, colleges and universities increasingly need to consider the role of civic engagement as part of students’ trajectory across the curriculum and co-curriculum. But civic engagement is more than a single outcome, and more than a single practice. This discussion will examine the utility, and nuance, of identifying civic engagement as an essential twenty-first century skill that can bridge students’ learning between coursework and applied settings, and create meaningful connections between academic and student affairs. We will also explore how civic engagement can be infused throughout the curriculum, including general education, to provide touchstones for student learning and development over time. The goal of the session is for participants to consider the practical and creative approaches that can be used to turn mission statements into action by empowering students to understand who they are as individuals and as citizens.

11:50 – 1:00 Lunch
1:00 – 2:00  **Breakout Sessions I – see next page for session descriptions**
- Assessing Civic Engagement (room TBD)
- Different Tools for Different Tasks: Strategies for Assessing Student Learning from Civic Engagement at the Student, Program, and Institutional Levels (room TBD)
- Civic Engagement Strategies for a Two-year Institution (room TBD)
- Team Time (room TBD)

2:15 – 3:15  **Breakout Sessions II – see next page for session descriptions**
- Civic Engagement on Campus: The Journey at Radford University (room TBD)
- Improving Student Learning Outcomes from Civic Engagement: The Value of Building Community Partnerships (room TBD)
- Team Time (room TBD)

3:20 – 3:50  **Group Discussion and Q&A**
Jodi Fisler, SCHEV Associate for Assessment Policy & Analysis

3:50 – 4:00  **Wrap-Up**
Assessing Civic Engagement

Keston Fulcher
Executive Director, Center for Assessment and Research Studies, and Associate Professor, Department of Graduate Psychology
James Madison University

Civic Engagement appears prominently in SCHEV's new assessment policy (which is still in draft form). Unlike the other required competencies – critical thinking, writing, quantitative reasoning – civic engagement has never before appeared in SCHEV's assessment policies. It also differs in that it can be conceptualized in ways other than a student learning outcome. This session presents various strategies to assess civic engagement. While JMU's practices will be highlighted, they will be presented in the context of a much broader conversation. Participants will:

- Learn about prominent civic engagement assessment strategies across the United States
- Share assessment practices at their home institutions with counterparts across Virginia
- Take home a resource sheet with references to relevant articles and civic engagement assessment instruments

Different Tools for Different Tasks: Strategies for Assessing Student Learning from Civic Engagement at the Student, Program, and Institutional Levels

Lynn E. Pelco
Associate Vice Provost for Community Engagement, Service-Learning Office Director
Virginia Commonwealth University

This presentation will overview the development and implementation of three distinct approaches to the assessment of student learning outcomes from civic engagement that are currently being used at Virginia Commonwealth University. These approaches include: assessment of change across time in individual student development, assessment of student learning outcomes as a result of course or program participation, and assessment of student success outcomes at the institutional level. Ample time will be provided for audience members to ask questions and to share ideas and resources.

Civic Engagement Strategies for a Two-year Institution

Connie Jorgensen, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Piedmont Virginia Community College
Jolene Hamm, Director of Institutional Research, Piedmont Virginia Community College

Two years ago PVCC launched its Civic Engagement efforts. In this session you will learn about how the college has begun to create a culture of civic engagement on campus, what projects have worked, and how we are measuring our successes.

Team Time

Use this opportunity to gather with other members of your institution to discuss what you’ve learned and how you can take the next step in promoting and assessing civic engagement among your students.
Civic Engagement on Campus: The Journey at Radford University
Sandra Baker, Director of Academic Assessment, Radford University
Samantha Blevins, Instructional Designer, ePortfolio Specialist, Radford University
Eunyoung (Euna) Lee, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, Radford University

Throughout the past four years, Radford University has engaged in a campus-wide conversation regarding the definition, incorporation and assessment of civic engagement on campus. This session will engage participants in conversation regarding the steps that RU took, as well as lessons learned and suggested best practices. In addition to an assessment and ePortfolio expert, faculty with experience in this endeavor will share their knowledge and discuss their practice in making civic engagement a success on our campus.

Improving Student Learning Outcomes from Civic Engagement: The Value of Building Community Partnerships
Emilie Stander
Assistant Professor of Environmental Science
Raritan Valley Community College (New Jersey)

The presenter will share how she has incorporated civic engagement into her introductory environmental science course through a required service learning component. The presentation will include descriptions of activities and assessment techniques, as well as critical elements of success, including institutional support and partnerships with community organizations.

Team Time

Use this opportunity to gather with other members of your institution to discuss what you’ve learned and how you can take the next step in promoting and assessing civic engagement among your students.