Realizing CCSU’s Distinctive Identities

A Plan for Action
August 26, 2008
CCSU’s Distinctive Identities

- Community Engagement
- International Education
- State and Workforce Development
- Interdisciplinary and Cross-curricular Initiatives
Understanding Engagement

Central and integral to the core mission of the university

- Another name for what universities do—not an “add on”
- Strategy for accomplishing institutional goals, a methodology
- Way of doing discovery, application, integration, teaching & learning
Why Pursue Community Engagement?

- To educate civic-minded students
- To enrich the good work that faculty already do
- To engage professional staff in core mission
- Economic development as important for boards, legislatures, businesses
- Funding agencies’ increased call for collaborative research involving community partners
- Higher ed has the skills, information in usable forms, place to dialogue and trusted partners that communities need
Core Concepts of Engagement

- Mutual and reciprocal
- Collaborative, interdisciplinary, team-based
- Demand-driven, issue-based
- Focused on learning
- Includes important intellectual activity
Obstacles to Community Engagement

Internal Obstacles

- Academic traditions
- Fears and myths
- Fears about engagement

External Obstacles

- Communities don’t know how to access us
- We don’t know how to communicate with them (importance of listening)
- Higher ed as marginalized; viewed as another special interest
Fostering a Culture of Community Engagement (CE)

• Invest in faculty development
• Create infrastructure to develop community partnerships
• Integrate CE into hiring and orientation
• Study engagement at other universities
• Study impact of CE on community and students
• Use impact data for visibility and fundraising
Implementing the CE Action Plan

- Link CE to the institution’s goals, issues, and values
- Inventory practices of early adopters
- Send faculty to conferences
- Create array of incentives and rewards; recognize faculty, students, partners
- Coordinate engagement with curricular and research development goals; give scholarly work a public purpose
- Anticipate and respond to resistance
- Strengthen community involvement; inventory community priorities
- Public relations: Tell stories; make engagement visible
Pursuing the Carnegie Classification

- Link engagement with institutional identity
- Establish coherence—not just accumulation of activities
- Set up a 12-15 person Task Force, including community partner(s)
- Identify # and % of students who participate in community-based activities
- Adopt CE catalog designator or transcript notation
- Identify CE in search & recruitment priorities
- Include a community voice in planning
- Integrate CE in unit missions, plans, and guidelines
- Rewards for CE
Civic Agency Initiative

AASCU institutions can only be “stewards of place” if they prepare a cohort of future community leaders who are themselves stewards of place, citizen professionals rather than detached experts, able to work collaboratively across differences, attentive and committed to the civic life of the places where they reside.

The Civic Agency Initiative will explore new possibilities for AASCU schools to build community wealth in economic, cultural, and human terms.

Professor Abigail Adams has agreed to be the coordinator of this initiative at CCSU.
Civic Agency Initiative

This initiative has two goals:

- to focus on developing civic skills and a sense of civic identity that provide college graduates with the ability to engage in change efforts

- to strengthen our universities as “stewards of place” by producing college graduates who can be agents and architects of positive change in local and regional communities
Civic Agency Initiative

- Integrate citizenship into core curricula in fields such as teaching, business and health, so that students leave higher education with the skills, confidence, and commitment to make ongoing civic contributions as professionals and as residents of their communities.

- Cultivate skills of collaborative problem-solving by engaging students in hands-on work with community partners, supported by faculty and staff coaches and structured reflection.
Civic Agency Initiative

Core Questions:

- How can CCSU help prepare undergraduates who possess civic agency: combination of civic knowledge, civic skills, a sense of efficacy, and a civic identity as stewards of place?
- What programs and experiences, in both the curriculum and co-curriculum, would be most effective to produce civic agency among undergraduates?
Civic Agency Initiative

- Examine campus practices and build linkages between groups and offices that may not have worked together before
- Create a core of faculty and staff on campus with substantial expertise in civic preparation, community outreach, and program evaluation.
- Provide national leadership in an area of emerging interest: student civic outcomes.
Civic Agency Initiative

Establish a network of partnering AASCU institutions that will:

- Generate new models, frameworks and ideas about the concept and development of civic agency
- Create and test modules, courses, programs and approaches for how higher education institutions can create civic agency among undergraduates
- Disseminate successful ideas throughout higher education
ACE Internationalization Laboratory

• Project of ACE’s Internationalization Collaborative, a learning consortium of more than 60 institutions that provides a forum for the sharing of ideas and practices that promote global education goals

• Provide leadership for a systematic and collaborative approach to global education at CCSU by developing
  • a strategy for the comprehensive internationalization of our campus community
  • a means to assess our achievement.
ACE Internationalization Laboratory

- Review current institutional internationalization activities
- Identify challenges and obstacles
- Develop an action plan and desired student learning outcomes
- Recommend internationalization goals and strategies
- Define key issues, facilitate dialogue, promote collective thinking
- Build support for the globalization process across campus
ACE Internationalization Laboratory

- Established Internationalization Leadership Team
- Co-chaired by Nancy Wagner and Lilian Uribe
- ACE site visit October 27, 2008
ACE Internationalization Laboratory

- Review and assess Central’s current internationalization efforts
- Develop a plan for increasing study abroad participation, rigor, faculty engagement, and oversight
- Develop a plan for the integration of global education into the curriculum
- Recommend ways to integrate global education and community engagement, as well as global education and diversity
- Investigate funding sources for programming and course development
2008-09 Faculty Development Events

September 25  Civic Engagement  Harry Boyte

November 5  Engaged Scholarship  William Miller

December 12  Learning Colloquium: Instructional Technology
2008-09 Faculty Development Activities

- TBD February: Peer review Michael Beber
- March 6: Writing Intensive Courses, Martha Townsend
- April 10: Math and Science Teaching; College Teaching Academy Ike Shibley,
- May 14 or 15: Learning Colloquium: Community Engagement