



**BUFFALO STATE**  
The State University of New York

## **Buffalo State College Civic Action Plan Workgroup**

### **Notes from Wednesday October 12, 2016**

1. Update from Alex/Laura: Co-chairs and members updated the group on the Oct 7 NYCC Civic Action Plan roundtable. Co-chairs informed members on the recent meeting with Dr. Conway-Turner to provide her with an update on the progress of the committee.
2. Subgroup reports: Each subgroup provided a report on the progress of effort to collect examples of activities for baseline civic engagement efforts, challenges encountered in collecting this information, challenges to the successes in each area, and recommendations to outcomes or strategies for improvements in each area. The following details were discussed:

#### BASELINE ACTIVITIES

- Volunteer and Service-Learning Center
- Community Academic Center
- Anne Frank Project
- PRISM/Great Lakes
- Professional Development Schools
- Bengals Dare to Care
- Pre-collegiate program service to Buffalo Public Schools
- Greek Organizations
- Employees on Community Organization Boards
- Performing Arts Center
- Project Flight
- Anchor Institution Commitment
- Directory of Policy Statements
- Student Undergraduate Research

#### CHALLENGES

- Meeting all aspects of Campus Compact guiding principles and/or language
- Understanding numbers of faculty, students, etc. and tracking
- How to expand and deepen work to become more critically focused
- Inconsistency in language
- How do we know its true Community Based Research?
- Competition for resources
- Anticipate and prevent problems and challenges to Civic Action plan implementation
- Try to bring others into the fold

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO STRENGTHEN WHAT WE ALREADY DO

- Common language in Promotion & Tenure documentation, reports, etc.
  - Definition of terms to provide guidance
- Coordination across areas/schools/programs
- Assessment – how, why, how are we using it?
- Faculty & staff support for Community Based Research other civic engagement efforts
  - Designate existing fellowships for civic engagement
- Integrate support across all forms of Community Engagement – research doesn't have strong existing supports
- Centralized source for Community Based work including research
  - Organizes meetings, collaboration and support for all areas of civic engagement for faculty, staff & students & community
- Physical location for centralized efforts (perhaps community based)
  - "Office of Mission"
- Cabinet level representation of Community Engagement work to effect cabinet decisions
- Advisory Board of community members & partners for civic engagement implementation

## FACULTY/STAFF SUPPORT & RECOGNITION

- Strengthen Personnel & Training process for Community Engagement
- Expand & deepen training available for Community Engagement
  - Centralize information/facilitate but leave individual efforts decentralized
- Campus awareness campaign (education & engagement)
  - "Win over the middle group of people"
  - Create elevator speech to help others see benefits to themselves but accept the other identities as well
- Improve existing efforts
  - Support for Buffalo Public School students prepare for & succeed in higher education
  - "Sell" civic engagement to non-WNY students – Why engage in Buffalo now – engaged with issues, but not familiar with local opportunities
- Multidisciplinary approach to addressing community issues in a deep collaboration/partnership with an organization
- More civic engagement learning communities

3. Themes for outcomes to date – Co-chairs summarized the following draft outcomes based on conversations at the Oct 7 roundtable and other conversations and meetings. Feedback was gathered.

- Faculty and staff support and campus culture – perhaps separate these to make two
- Coordination of Community Engagement
- Communication – this may fall under coordination of community engagement efforts
- Broaden community input in college processes and deepen community impact
- Student support
- Data collection

4. Revisit Timeline:

- November 4 – 1<sup>st</sup> draft shared with committee
- November 15 – 1<sup>st</sup> draft shared with campus
- **Thursday December 1, 12:15-1:30pm- open campus wide forum for feedback**
- January 18 – 2<sup>nd</sup> draft shared with committee
- February 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> draft shared with campus via online comment period
- March 1 – final and submitted to Dr. Conway-Turner
- March 15- submitted to Campus Compact