

Illinois State University

Teaching and Learning Symposium
January 10, 2007

2006-2007 Initiatives in the Division of Academic Affairs

- The FOCUS Project is complementing other campus wide Initiatives at ISU:
 - American Democracy Project
 - First Year Experience
 - The Political Engagement Project
 - General Education
 - Partnership for Student-Learning

The American Democracy Project

- Began in March 2003
- Joint effort between the Divisions of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs
- Special ADP projects
 - Political Engagement Project
 - Jury Initiative
 - Voter Registration Project
 - Establishment of a Service Learning Office

Civic Engagement Movement in Higher Education

- Concerns about our Democracy
 - Decline in social capital
 - Lack of civic understanding
 - Decline in civic education in K-12
 - Decline in political participation –especially among the youngest adults
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Civic Engagement Movement in Higher Education

- Concerns about our Institutions
 - Decreasing focus on liberal education
 - Declines in public funding
 - Growth of for-profit universities
 - Increase in merit, not needs-based scholarships
 - Increasing expectations of accountability

What is PUBLIC about public higher education?

- AASCU believes that the solution is not to become more private but to become more explicitly public.

Public colleges and universities have 3 obligations:

- To Students

What are our obligations to ensure that students have access to high quality programs, adequate support, and substantive outcomes?

- To Place

What is the role of higher education in the development of its community and region?

- To Country

What is the role of higher education in the development of citizens?

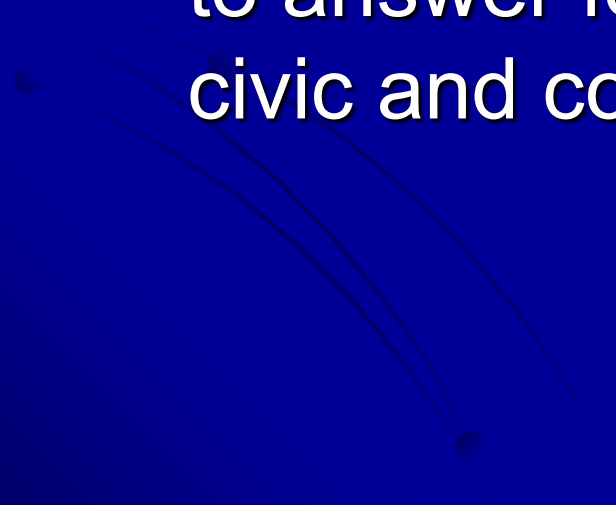
- 3-year funded project through Academic Affairs
- Purpose: to enhance *faculty responsiveness to the value of civic and community engagement* so that they will incorporate civic and community engagement opportunities for students into their classes and the curriculum

- Accomplishments during the 1st year:
 - Marketing for awareness of the FOCUS Initiative with breakfasts, luncheons, posters and flyers on the ISU campus
 - Creation of 3 summer fellowships for ISU faculty to develop instructional web-based modules for faculty
 - Support the training of LinC Instructors
 - Various travels supports

- 2nd Year – In progress
 - Grants and Awards for Faculty & Departments/Schools
 - 10 – Mini-Grants @ \$500 each
 - 2 – Initiative Grants @ \$1500 each
 - Faculty Award - \$1000
 - Department Award \$2500
 - Support for LinC instructors
 - FOCUS Modules

The FOCUS Modules

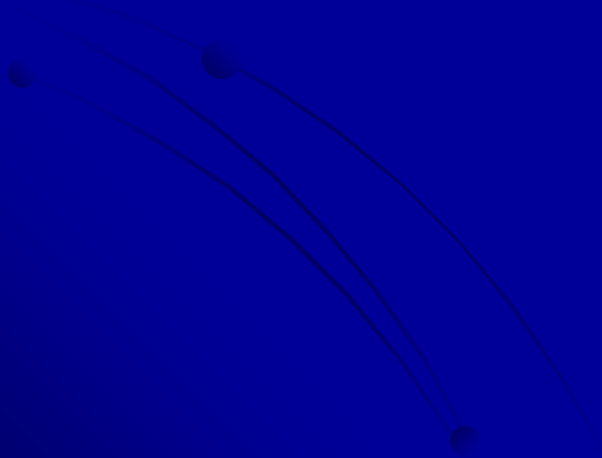
Dr. Gary Bachman, Ms. Jodi Hallsten, Dr. Phyllis McCluskey-Titus

- Web-based instructional system for faculty at Illinois State University
 - Created by ISU Faculty for ISU Faculty to answer foundational questions about civic and community engagement
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The FOCUS Modules

The first three modules include:

1. What are Civic and Community Engagement ?
2. Why Incorporate Civic and Community Engagement?
3. Innovative Pedagogy for Incorporating Civic and Community Engagement



www.focus.ilstu.edu/modules

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FOCUS WEB MODULES FOR CIVIC & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

What are Civic and Community Engagement?

Why Incorporate Civic and Community Engagement?

Innovative Pedagogy for Incorporating Civic and Community Engagement

FOCUS Modules Home

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world.
— Margaret Mead

WELCOME to the FOCUS (Faculty Opportunities for Creating Opportunities Using Innovative Pedagogy)

FOCUS is a faculty development program supported through Academic Affairs and designed to emphasize the secondary purpose is to incorporate civic and community engagement opportunities for students into classes designed to introduce you to the idea of civic and community engagement and to teach you how to incorporate civic and community awareness – for students, as well as for faculty, campus, and community. The third module is **Courses Using Innovative Pedagogy**.

Instructions:

To navigate through the modules you may use the 'continue' and 'back' navigation at the bottom of the pages. As you go through the module series you will be asked to reflect on your own thoughts about what civic and community engagement related activities into existing or new assignments and projects. As you do so, you will be provided on the pages and print or you may open this [FOCUS Word Document](#), which includes the headings open until the end of the series and save periodically).

Learning outcomes for modules:

What are Civic and Community Engagement?

After completing this learning module, faculty will be able to:

- Describe what civic and community engagement are according to national experts
- Describe what civic and community engagement are as defined at Illinois State University
- Reference theories related to civic and community engagement
- Write their own definition of civic and community engagement

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