

# The FOCUS Initiative

Faculty Opportunities for Creating Civic and Community  
Understanding among Students

Illinois State University  
University Teaching and Learning Symposium – January 9, 2008

## Presenters

### FOCUS Steering Team Members:

Danielle Lindsey, Office of the Provost  
Mardell Wilson, University Assessment Office

### 2007 FOCUS Faculty Fellows:

Joan Brehm, Sociology-Anthropology  
Megan Houge, Communication  
Andrea Wilson, Education Administration and Foundations

### FOCUS GA:

Nadia Wendlend

## Purpose

- 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

# 1<sup>st</sup> Year Accomplishments

- 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

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Accomplishments

- Instructional web-based modules were piloted and launched at the University Teaching and Learning Symposium in January 2007
  - *What are Civic and Community Engagement?*
  - *Why Incorporate Civic and Community Engagement?*
  - *Innovative Pedagogy for Incorporating Civic & Community Engagement.*
- Support the training of First Year LinC instructors
- Various travels supports
- Faculty and Department/School Awards
- Mini-Grants and collaborative Initiative Grants

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Accomplishments

- 3 new summer faculty fellows developed two new instructional modules for faculty:
  - *Political Engagement: Beyond Politics*
  - *Innovative Partnerships*
- Continued support for training of First Year LinC
- Various travels supports
- Faculty and Department/School Awards
- Mini-Grants and collaborative Initiative Grants
- *New in Spring 2008...* Stipend supported facilitated workshop using the FOCUS modules for course development/reinvention

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Accomplishments Continued

- Continued planning for the Innovative Partnerships for Student Learning Conference  
Co-hosted with:  
Illinois Wesleyan University & Heartland Community College
  - September 25, 26, & 27, 2008
    - DoubleTree Hotel and Conference Center
    - To submit a proposal visit:  
[www.partnershipconference.ilstu.edu](http://www.partnershipconference.ilstu.edu)  
Deadline: February 29, 2008

## New FOCUS Modules

- *Political Engagement: Beyond Politics*
- *Innovative Partnerships*
- Content developed by:

Summer 2007 FOCUS Faculty Fellows

- Joan Brehm, Sociology-Anthropology
- Megan Houge, Communication
- Andrea Wilson, EAF

FOCUS Initiative GA - Nadia Wendlandt

## Political Engagement Project at ISU

- The Political Engagement Project (PEP) is an initiative of the American Democracy Project and directed by Tom Ehrlich of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.
- The primary mission of the Political Engagement Project, which began Fall 2006, is to enhance Illinois State University students' awareness and understanding of political engagement and impact their level of political involvement and leadership.



## Innovative Partnerships

- “Developing innovative partnerships with other faculty members, institutions of higher learning through virtual assignments and group projects, as well as civic engagement within the local community, provides endless opportunities for enhanced scholarship and a lifelong interest in learning and a commitment to social change amongst our student population.”

--Innovative Partnerships FOCUS Module (Brehm, Houge, Wilson)

# Political Engagement: Beyond Politics

- After completing this learning module, faculty will be able to...
  - Describe political engagement in relation or respect to their own discipline.
  - Understand how core concepts of political engagement relate to student learning and engagement.
  - Envision and incorporate some basic form of political engagement in their own curriculum.

# Innovative Partnerships

- After completing this learning module, faculty will be able to...
  - Appreciate the benefits of innovative partnerships
  - To distinguish between creativity and innovative.
  - Understand how to implement innovative partnerships.
  - Be motivated to attend the Innovative Partnerships Conference.

[www.partnershipsconferenceilstu.edu](http://www.partnershipsconferenceilstu.edu)

# Accessing the FOCUS Modules

- [www.focus.ilstu.edu/module\\_series](http://www.focus.ilstu.edu/module_series)
- User name: `adilstu\yourULID`
- Password: your ULID password
- If you encounter problems contact us:  
[focus@ilstu.edu](mailto:focus@ilstu.edu)  
or 438-2135

