Center for Community Engagement
Annual Review and Report
August 1, 2009

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The Center for Community Engagement (CCE) advances community-based programs on the Sonoma State University campus. The CCE supports faculty in developing community-based teaching that integrates academic theory with community service and research that is inclusive of community partners and students to address local problems. By incorporating these projects into the curriculum, we teach students to be active citizens and that the theories taught in the classroom do apply to real-world issues.

Central to the mission of CCE are several goals:

• To integrate service-learning and community-based research into the curriculum;

• To support and promote high quality, reciprocal community-university partnerships that are firmly rooted in the curriculum;

• To foster the development of a civic perspective in education.
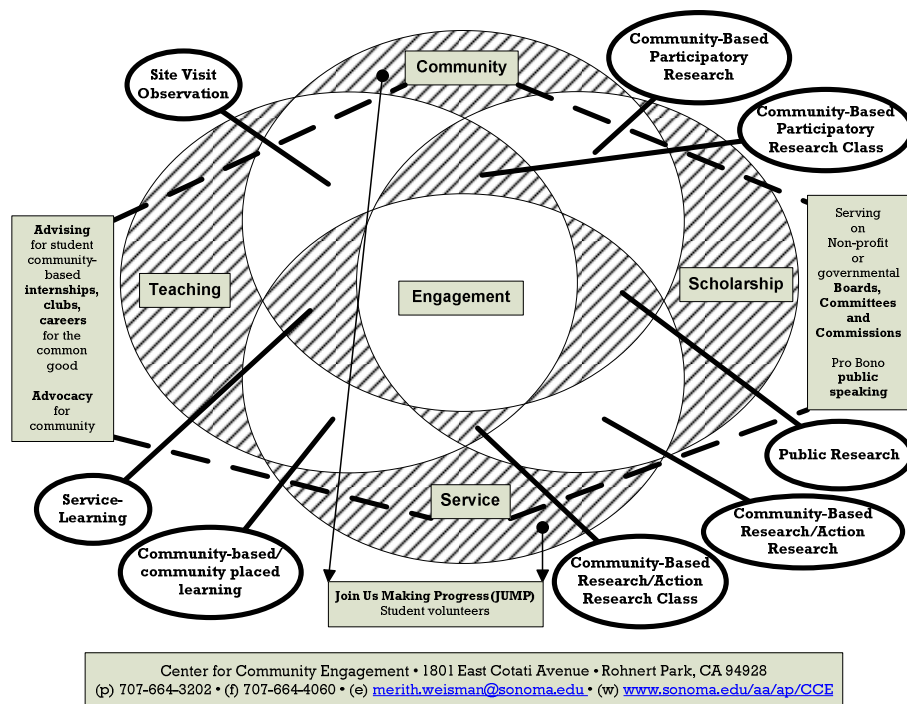
1. Activities

This description of CCE activities is a combination of existing responsibilities as well as ideas generated by the strategic planning activities. The CCE has both management and leadership responsibilities. Management activities work in the system to accomplish work effectively and efficiently. Leadership activities work on the system to create a better system. Both are vital to the CCE and of course, some activities fall into both categories (Franklin Covey Co. 2003).

A. Management Activities

A1. Ongoing Data Collection and Database Development

Concurrent with the search for funding, data must be collected on campus regarding academic community engagement activities. The CCE documents faculty and community involvement with community-based activities currently underway and provides a mechanism for stakeholders to have input into the development process. This data collection process also provides an opportunity for education and dialog around community engagement, makes it easier for students to identify service-learning courses, helps connect community partners and faculty, and provides necessary data to the Chancellor's Office.

This data will be entered into a database that documents and helps connect community partners and faculty for continued relationship building. Stories will be collected for public relations and risk management paperwork will be built in to this multidimensional non-linear web-like system.

A2. Ongoing Responsibilities

Each year, the CCE provides programs to support community engagement and assist faculty, students and community partners to work better together. These include:

* Faculty training opportunities through on-campus workshops and information and support for off-campus conferences and publishing opportunities

* Collaboration with JUMP and Career Services to provide an annual Service and Internship Fair

* Collaboration with JUMP and Career Services to provide an annual panel discussion on Careers for the Common Good

* Collaboration with Study Abroad to provide an event for students to connect with international service opportunities[1]

* Annual recognition event for faculty, students and community partners[2]

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[1] Currently discontinued due to lack of resources and de-prioritization by the CCE's Strategic Action Committee.

* Opportunities for faculty and community partners to meet and develop relationships

* SSU representation at community meetings and events

* Coordination to procure support and funds for all activities (management and leadership; ongoing, temporary, and future)

B. Leadership Activities

Strategic Action Committee (SAC)
A committee, similar to the OCBL's advisory board, has been developed consisting of faculty, students, and community members. SAC serves as the leadership group in community engagement and focuses on the institutionalization of the CCE and community engaged academic work on campus.

Connections throughout Campus
The CCE links with a variety of programs and provides service across disciplines. In particular, the CCE works in collaboration with the Center for Teaching and Professional Development to ensure the resources are available for faculty to engage in academic service learning and community research. Additionally, the CCE works with various committees as they approach the task of measuring and increasing civic learning goals. The CCE also engages student programs like JUMP to ensure a strong student voice in the integration of community engagement on campus.

Creation of Public Relations Plan
Working with Public Relations, the CCE will cultivate relationships with local media and provide them information on the activities that link the University to the community. The CCE will support both new and existing community programs by telling their stories to the media. Additionally, the CCE will be active on a system-wide, statewide and national level, celebrating the service work done by the Sonoma State University community with service-related as well as higher education focused publications.

Course Development
The CCE serves as a resource to assist faculty with integrating community engaged pedagogies into their curriculum and developing and supporting community partnerships. The service-learning course development component of the CCE is central to its functioning. The CCE provides assistance to faculty in curriculum design to improve the quality of both teaching and learning.

Involving faculty is the key to a successful course development. The CCE serves as a resource to faculty by providing information and guidance to encourage the integration of service-learning across the curriculum. This support service helps faculty in the development of curriculum that integrates service-learning and addresses the ongoing needs of students in community based positions.

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[2] Currently discontinued due to lack of resources and de-prioritization by the CCE's Strategic Action Committee.

The CCE also acts as an advocate for community engagement on campus and in the community. The Center works with the campus community to promote the inclusion of community engaged activities in the faculty hiring, retention, and tenure process.

Resource Library

The CCE serves as a clearinghouse for community engaged resources. The CCE has a physical library where faculty, students, and the community can come to find information and models to assist them in developing community-based learning programs. The library houses the latest research as well as sample syllabi and effective program models. In the future, the library may exist as an online resource where information can be accessed electronically and dialog can occur.

Community Partnership Program

The CCE identifies and develops relationships with community organizations towards the goal of supporting collaborative development of community-faculty partnerships. The CCE serves as a linkage between community organizations and faculty to facilitate these strong and productive partnerships.

The CCE works closely with community partners to ensure that they are involved in the development and implementation of projects. The CCE conducts training for community agencies on service-learning pedagogy and provides all community partners with resources for building strong and productive relationships with the University. The CCE also conducts visits and ongoing conversations with community agencies to ensure service experiences are successful and results are documented.

Community partners are included in the leadership of the Center through the Strategic Action Committee and participate in workshops, trainings and other events at the University. Faculty are encouraged to create co-teaching opportunities for community partners and actively involve them in the development of curriculum.

Relationships with community partners are cultivated and a database kept of community agencies interested in partnering with the University. The Center provides assistance to those members of the campus community interested in identifying and developing relationships with community partners. These resources are available in the office and will be available online through the CCE website. This resource often gives faculty members the jump-start they need to build community partnerships.

SSU Service Scholars Program

The student led component is necessary for an effective community-based learning program. The CCE will develop a program for linking student leaders interested in service-learning with faculty to work as teaching assistants in support of service-learning and provide a stipend for these positions. In connection with the JUMP office, the CCE will develop a training and student handbook on service-learning. The CCE will also ensure students who participate in service-learning receive a distinction on their transcripts. An annual award event will be held where students are recognized for their participation in service-learning programs.

Community Service Internships

At this time, an assessment of the Community Service Internship Program is in the CCE Faculty Fellow position description. Once that assessment is complete, a recommendation may be made to work towards providing suggestions and best practices for successful internships for all involved. One possibility is replicating a project developed at Portland State University. The PSU project has a Coordinator specifically in charge of internships who meets weekly with the interns and community partners to discuss issues, share insights, and reflect on experiences. The project also includes an assessment tool to measure the impact of these internships on all involved. More information is available at www.pdx.edu.

Community-Based Research Funds

The Center for Community Engagement supports community-based research. We are exploring focusing on one project or issue at a time and continue to support faculty in documenting and publishing community-based research.

Service-Learning Development and Replication

The CCE works with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs to ensure the development and future funding of new service-learning and community service programs. The CCE also plans to explore funding to replicate successful community engagement programs nationwide.

2. Fiscal year financial report summarizing the nature, source, and amount of funding (including grants and contracts received) and operating expenses;

Category	2007-2008 rollover	Expended CCS Allocation	Campus Match	Total
Personnel faculty and staff salaries		17,400	32,200	49,600
Personnel student staff		6,767		6,767
Personnel faculty staff benefits		10,634		10,634
Operating Costs	8,824	2,180		11,004
Curriculum Development/Stipends		3,841		3,841
TOTAL	**$8,824**	**$40,822**	**$32,200**	**$81,846**

3. Faculty, staff, and student personnel

Merith Weisman, the coordinator of the Center for Community Engagement, is the sole professional staff. There is substantial support from Elaine Sundberg, the supervisor. There were also two academic year student assistants. Due to lack of funding, searches for California's Promise Fellows and a Faculty Fellow were postponed. Appropriate staffing for the CCE should include a full time Director, part time Faculty Fellow, and full time clerical support positions. Future growth plans could include several other staff members such as a community liaison position, other coordinator positions, and a grant writer.

4. Organizational structure

The organizational location of the CCE is critical. As the research suggests, the CCE is housed within the Division of Academic Affairs but maintains strong connections to the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

5. Space used

The CCE is on the first floor of the library in the Schulz Information Center. This location is readily accessible for faculty, students, and community members alike.

6. Proposed budget for the upcoming year

Category	2008-2009 rollover	CCS Allocation	Campus Match	Total
Personnel:staff salaries		12,688	32200	$44,888
Personnel:student staff		10,000		$10,000
Personnel:staff benefits		10,548		$10,548
Operating Costs	7,137	10,923		$18,060
Curriculum Development		3,841		$3,841
Town Hall		2,000		$2,000
TOTAL	**$7,137**	**$50,000**	**$32,200**	**$89,337**

7. Impact of activities on the academic program of the University

Research indicates that successful community engagement programs build on the tradition and mission of the University. Part of Sonoma State University's mission is to prepare women and men to "have a broad cultural perspective" and develop as "active citizens and leaders in society, " "concerned with contributing to the health and well-being of the world at large." The Sonoma State University mission statement reflects the priority placed on engaging students in the creation and development of productive community partnerships.

In support of SSU's longstanding tradition of involving students and faculty in the local community, the Center for Community Engagement (CCE) provides support to new and existing activities that engage SSU students in active exploration of their community. The CCE works to establish and strengthen partnerships in the community and with faculty members to help them integrate learning pedagogies for the common good into their curricula. This includes service-learning, community-based participatory and action research, public service, civic engagement, problem-based learning, and activism. Additionally, we help nonprofit and governmental organizations working on diverse issues such as poverty, education, the environment, the arts, elderly, domestic violence, historical preservation, health, sexual assault, disabilities, and community organizing, access the resources of the University. We assist faculty and staff to connect with leadership positions such as Boards of Directors and committees and support students in connecting with careers for the common good.

The CCE facilitates faculty-student-community connections and their integration into curriculum in order to create active and powerful learning experiences that address community needs. The CCE serves as a resource by providing information, training, and support services to expand community-based learning opportunities. The

previously existing OCBL is housed in the CCE and is the primary office for service-learning initiatives at SSU.

8. Community service

The CCE provides the next-to-last stop for community organizations attempting to access the resources of the University. We were able to fulfill most requests this year. The CCE served as the link to several faculty members now serving on non-profit Boards of Directors and recruited faculty to serve on community panel discussions. We are regular attendees of various community coalition meetings. CCE personnel served on the Sustainable Enterprise Coalition Steering Committee, the Citizen's Recovery Advisory Council, and the Friends of SMART (Sonoma Marin Area Rapid Transit). Additionally, personnel served as a mentor at the Western Region Campus Compact Annual Continuums of Service Conference and as the SSU representative to the Bay Area Service & Service-Learning Network.

9. Plans for future activities

Now that we have gained approval for the strategic plan, created scenarios and made decisions about priorities, we will continue our implementation with these in mind. This year the Strategic Action Committee will provide general support and guidance for the CCE, especially in these challenging times.

This year we are hosting events to assist faculty and community partners to plan service-learning courses that educate for multicultural competence (in the fall) and sustainability (in the spring).

10. Problems to be addressed

Of course, financial resources continue to be inappropriate for the extensive work that the CCE does to address the University's civic mission. Several service-learning lecturers have already left the University and it is possible that tenured and tenure-track faculty may cut back on their community work as they are cutting back elsewhere. Beyond the internal cuts, the CCE has other resource concerns. It is likely that we will be able to access fewer resources from the nonprofit sector since as they cut back, they could choose to cut using staff time to work with us. It is likely that earnings on endowments that fund grants and organizations directly have and will continue to plummet this year, so this is going to be a lot worse next year than it is this year. Additionally, it is possible that we could loose at least some of the annual $48,000 allocation we receive from the Chancellor's Office. We could also loose the remaining support and services we get from the CO CCE. Finally, other SSU programs and offices that support our civic mission are also being cut.

Even before the current budget crisis, the CCE was able to identify concerns that are listed in our Strategic Plan:

> **Internal Liabilities -- University**
> o Stirs up turf issues regarding ownership of the CCE
> o Creates the perception of prescription or "top-down" development if presented as a mandate or positioned incorrectly
>
> **Internal Liabilities – Faculty**

o Involves too much faculty time given all of their other duties
o Creates resistance among faculty if it is viewed as prescriptive
o Sharing or recognizing alternative sources of knowledge can be threatening to some faculty

Internal Liabilities -- Students
o Creates a negative student impression if students are not well prepared
o Creates a negative student impression if students feel pressured to participate
o Sets a barrier to lifelong service if the experience is a negative one
o Without correct reflective analysis activities, students can have stereotypes confirmed

Internal Liabilities -- Community
o Increases training and supervision demands on community agencies
o Engenders negative results if roles and responsibilities aren't clear
o The semester schedules of higher education can be challenging for community agencies