Service Learning for Civic Engagement

October 27, 2004
Outline

- CE defined
- Knowledge, Skills, and Values
- Civic Skills as Learning Outcomes
- Relationship between Service Learning (SL) and Civic Engagement (CE)
Definition of Civic Engagement

“Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes.”

- (Thomas Ehrlich, 2000)
Socially Responsive Knowledge

- to educate students in the problems of society
- to have them experience and understand first hand social issues in their community
- to give them the experience and skills to act on social problems

- Irwin Altman, reprinted in F04 Compact Reader
http://www.compact.org/reader/fall04/article6.html
Civic Skills

- Intellectual Skills – ex: understanding the history of issues
- Participatory Skills – ex: working with diverse groups
- Research Skills – ex: tracking legislation
- Persuasion Skills – ex: writing letters to representatives
Democratic and Educational Values

*Personally responsible* citizen obeys laws, pays taxes, and helps others in need. Education based virtues like integrity, respect, and hard work

*Participatory* citizen is active in civic affairs. Educational programs on learning how public institutions work and on building skills, such as communication skills and group decision-making
Democratic and Educational Values

*Justice-oriented* citizen assesses social, political, and economic structures and considers collective strategies for change that challenge injustice and address root causes

- J. Westheimer and J. Kahne, *Educating the “Good” Citizen*, 2003
Service-Learning for Civic Outcomes

“Service learning is the most potent method for achieving civic learning if civic learning outcomes are a part of the curricular goals”

- J. Saltmarsh, 2004

Campus Compact White Paper
Service Learning and Civic Engagement Outcomes

- Civic dispositions
- Civic skills
- Civic knowledge
Discussion:

- Read Mission Statement and Student Role
- “Invent” course that uses this placement (real courses are ok)
- Create reflection questions or other exercises to obtain civic learning outcome