

CSU Monterey Bay Winter Institute on Service Learning and Civic Engagement

January 13 & 14, 2005

CSUMB University Center Ballroom

Winter Institute Goals

- To understand CSUMB's social justice-oriented approach to civic engagement in service learning.
- To develop specific social justice-oriented civic engagement learning outcomes, relevant learning strategies, and approaches to assessment.
- To develop specific roles for community partners as co-educators (both in the class and at the site) in social justice-oriented civic engagement.
- To learn about pedagogical approaches and resources to more effectively teach about social justice issues.
- To identify a process to document student learning/curricular transformation related to social justice-oriented civic engagement.

Outside Expert Exercise

GOAL:

- To experience what it's like to "gather information" and watch one's assumptions and stereotypes run wild filling in the blanks...

SET-UP:

We need volunteers to be "experts:"

- Pick 3 men and 3 women

Offer guidance to "experts:"

- Try to find out the issues that the community is confronting
- You can only ask yes/no questions

Offer guidance to the community:

- The "experts" will be coming
- There are two rules of communication:
 1. Women can't talk to outside men; men can't talk to outside women.
 2. If someone is smiling, the answer is yes. If they are not smiling, the answer is no.
- Arrange yourself as an interesting "community in its day-to-day action."

Activity:

- Ask experts to come in and do their thing.
- Then, ask experts to leave, and develop a "brief report of their findings."
 1. What is the problem that the community is confronting?
 2. What was it like interacting with this community?
- Then, inform the "experts" of the rules of communication for this community.

PROCESSING:

- *How did it feel to try and find out the problems?*
- *What assumptions and stereotypes were apparent?*
- *What were the "deficits" that emerged?*
- *What better ways are there to get information?*

TAKE-AWAY:

What will you do (and not do) when you go to the community?