

# **Service Learning for Civic Engagement**

**October 27, 2004**

# Outline

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

# Definition of Civic Engagement

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*“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**

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- ❖ **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

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- ❖ **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**

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***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**

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***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

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*“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**

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- ❖ **Civic dispositions**
- ❖ **Civic skills**
- ❖ **Civic knowledge**

## *Discussion:*

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- **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**