



ADP NEWS

As part of its ongoing participation in the American Democracy Project

(ADP), Illinois State University declared that April would be Civic Engagement Celebration month. The Celebration is a public expression of Illinois State's commitment to the ADP ideals of encouraging student exploration of social and civic issues, promoting student participation in learning activities involving social or political problems, and developing a sense of civic commitment in students.

The highlight of the celebration was a kick-off event on April 8th where Al Bowman, president of Illinois State, signed the *Presidential Declaration on the Civic Responsibility of Higher Education*, a document outlining a vision for greater civic engagement on college campuses. The declaration, signed by more than 500 college and university presidents, was written by Campus Compact.

Special recognition was given to the winners of Illinois State's

Civic Engagement Celebration at Illinois State University

Alumni Service Award, winners of ADP's Film Your Issue student competition, participants in the 2005 Alternative Spring Break Program and to the Service and Leadership Lifestyle Floor residents and staff. These students and alumni have shown themselves to be active and concerned citizens who embody the qualities of

education and service that are part of Illinois State's mission.

The celebration also brought attention to the wide variety of civic engagement activities at Illinois State. For more information visit ilstu.edu/americandemocracy/civicengagementcelebration/april2005.shtml. ♦

FYI . . .

P.O.V.

The 18th season of P.O.V. on PBS will kick off Tuesday, June 21st at 10 p.m. Family and faith will play a prominent role this season, as filmmakers share intensely personal stories about complicated relationships and enduring legacies. Visit pbs.org/pov/ to watch trailers and sign up for e-mail notification.

To maximize the impact of P.O.V. programs, community

engagement outreach campaigns are designed to build audiences, inspire civic dialogue, and when possible, foster sustained partnerships and community involvement around issues raised in our programs.

To participate:

- alert your members and colleagues to broadcast dates via newsletter announcements,

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website links, e-mail alerts or by distributing flyers and/or program guides at upcoming conferences or training sessions;

- apply online to host a sneak preview screening and discussion of Season 18 films.
- invite your members to use any of P.O.V.'s companion program materials (i.e., lesson plans, facilitation guides and multi-media resources); and
- invite your members to talk back and respond to the films at pbs.org/pov after viewing the film.

If you are interested in participating in one or several of the above activities, contact Eliza Licht, Community Engagement Manager at P.O.V., 212.989.8121 x316, or elicht@pov.org.

Democracy Matters

Democracy Matters has wrapped up the Fourth Annual National Summit in Albany, New York. Close to 150 students from 15 states attended workshops, breakout groups, and other presentations to strategize about their role in changing the way election campaigns are funded and in taking back democracy.

The Summit unveiled the new Democracy Matters video; a nine-minute film that you can view, download or request for free at democracymatters.org. The video introduces students working on- and off-campus to deepen democracy and promote clean elections.

Summit participants attended skill-building workshops on using the media, organizing on- and

off-campus, using technology for social change, money and politics as a civil rights issue, and more. This year's Summit included guests Paul Turner from the Greenlining Institute, Hannah Pingree, the 28 year-old state representative from Maine who has twice won election as a Clean Election candidate, and comedic monologist Josh Kornbluth from California.

Americans for Informed Democracy (AID) Surpasses Spring Goals with Events in Over 100 Communities

Major Americans for Informed Democracy (AID) events took place in over 100 communities in the U.S. and around the world during the Spring academic term promoting public dialogue about the future of U.S. foreign policy. Some highlights of recent AID series include:

A town hall series on U.S. Development Policy that involved over 7,500 students and concerned citizens in broad, inclusive dialogue with top policymakers and development experts about the U.S. role in realizing the Millennium Development Goals.

A videoconference series that allowed over 2,500 students in the U.S. to talk "face to face" with students on five other continents. The series allowed Americans to talk with Sri Lankans and Indians about the tsunami, with Europeans and Africans about the obligations of wealthy countries to the developing world, with South Koreans and Australians about North Korean nuclear proliferation, with South Americans about the future of the United Nations Security Council, and with citizens

in Ukraine and Russia about the future of democracy in those countries.

A public discussion series, co-sponsored by the Stanley Foundation and the United Nations Foundation, sparked dialogue in more than a dozen cities across America on U.N. reform.

A lecture series, co-sponsored by the Voices of September 11 and the 911 Public Discourse Project, raised awareness about the status of the 911 Commission recommendations.

For more information, visit aidemocracy.org.

Youth Policy Action Center

More than 30 of the country's leading national advocacy organizations have joined forces to launch the Youth Policy Action Center, established to improve policies and programs for children and youth.

The Center, generously supported by the award-winning technology of Capitol Advantage, will help concerned youth and adults contact elected officials about important programs and initiatives, especially in the critical days before votes are cast on the floor of Congress.

The Center will provide young people with a platform on which to stand and be counted in national debate and dialogue. It gives national advocacy organizations a way to come together and act as one, and provides parents, grandparents, and teachers with the political power that was formerly the exclusive domain of entrenched special interest lobbyists.

For more information, visit youthpolicyactioncenter.org. ♦

Campus Reports . . .

Metropolitan State University

Metropolitan State University's (Minn.) American Democracy Project working group sponsored two initiatives to engage the campus community in dialogue and action on public issues during the 2005 academic year. ADP joined the Student Senate, university administration and community advocates in an ambitious university-community voter registration and turnout campaign during the fall semester. Faculty supported the campaign with a voter education program entitled, "Beyond the Hype: Student-Faculty Perspectives on the 2004 Election." The president and provost wrote to faculty members encouraging them to make it possible for students to go to the polls on Election Day.

In March, ADP added local and regional issues to its national focus. The annual Civic Engagement Conference, "Uncommon Ground? Regional Perspectives on the Public Good," combined a presentation of the university's annual survey of public attitudes on key regional issues, with dialogue on the role of religion in politics, immigration, and the general state of civic life in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. National issues, such as Social Security, also played a role in the conference dialogue.

Other ADP activities at Metropolitan:

- With the support of the university's Center for Community-Based Learning, university faculty are developing two new academic minors to support civic engagement through both classroom and community-based learning. Available to students in Fall

2005, the Community Organizing and Development minor combines an introduction to key concepts with practical skill building for students seeking leadership opportunities with organizations working on issues of poverty and social inequality at the local, national, and/or global level. The proposed Civic Engagement minor, scheduled to begin in Spring 2006, will provide students with a broad menu of learning opportunities to support ongoing engagement in public life.

- Recognizing the key role of faculty members in supporting civic engagement, both inside and outside the classroom, the university's ADP group secured a Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Center for Teaching and Learning grant to sponsor two faculty development seminars that provided participants with a conceptual framework and practical academic tools. The first seminar brought together eight participants from disciplines as varied as computer and information sciences and business law, to cultural anthropology and environmental communication. Each faculty member redesigned a current syllabus to include a class- or community-based assignment(s) directed toward achieving specific civic learning outcomes. The second seminar focused on department-wide civic engagement strategies. Faculty teams from the university's Communications, Writing, and Arts and Women's Studies Departments reviewed the role of civic engagement in their depart-

ment's missions and designed a new core course focused on the civic dimensions of their respective disciplines.

- In another manifestation of his commitment to Metropolitan State University's civic engagement mission, President Wilson Bradshaw appointed Minnesota Campus Compact Director Mark Langseth to be Vice President for Institutional Advancement. During his ten year term as director of Campus Compact, Langseth created one of the strongest and most innovative state programs in the nation. Langseth will work with university and community constituencies to further enhance Metropolitan State's core mission as an engaged and responsive urban campus.
- University students are coaching Public Achievement (PA) teams of fifth and sixth grade students at one of the partnering elementary schools. In the fall, one of the PA groups identified a problem at an intersection on the east side of St. Paul where traffic at the crosswalk caused safety issues for young students walking to school. The team decided to approach the St. Paul City Council to address the problem. A Ward 7 representative and two city traffic engineers agreed to meet the PA team. The young students shared their research with the city officials and asked for help to improve the safety. The city representatives agreed to look into the matter and in just a few months the Department of Public

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Works decided to make two major changes based on the information they received from the PA team.

- Every year Metropolitan State participates in National Youth Service Day with their partnering elementary school. This year a Community Trash Can Project was the highlight. Over the years, Dayton's Bluff community members have noticed an increase in foot traffic leading to an increase in trash discarded in the neighborhood. The District Council, the university and the elementary school decided that trash cans would draw more attention and be used more frequently if they were painted with bright designs and/or messages. Third grade students were presented with a community art curriculum, including complimentary colors and designs. The students then created designs and painted them on 20 donated trash cans. The cans will be placed at several neighborhood businesses and organizations, including the university. It is hoped that the community will use them to keep the east side free of trash.

Castleton State College (Vt.)

Last semester, students in a Documentary Workshop class collaborated with students in a service-learning course in Social Work Policy to create a 20-minute video. The video, titled "I'm Still Poor," is about poverty and homelessness in the Rutland, Vermont region.

The mayor of Rutland, who pressed to see a few minutes of rough footage long before

the documentary was finished, was unhappy because the video presented an unflattering picture of his community. The client, Caprice Hover, director of the Rutland Housing Coalition, was thrilled with the documentary as well as the survey and report based on interviews with the poor and homeless of the region. Many local agency people, educators, and concerned citizens have clamored to see it.

Initially there was concern that the public controversy over the documentary might disillusion the student creators since this was their first foray into an important public policy arena. The students were invited to a Cabinet meeting, and asked the following: "So after this experience, are you now more or less likely to get involved in something similar in the future?" They all enthusiastically replied that they were "much more likely." This was as true of the Communication majors, who hadn't been particularly politicized on social issues before, as it was of the Social Work majors, who brought a strong social conscience to their work.

State University of New York Brooklyn College

Brooklyn College is launching a Center for the Study of Brooklyn. Run by Paul Moses, a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist on the faculty, the Center attempts to link more closely with the home borough of Brooklyn and serve in a substantive way as a research arm to assess current policies and help point the borough in new directions. Brooklyn College held a half-day "conversation" with

various constituencies to define policy issues researched at the Center. A conference of Brooklyn newspapers will be held at the Center to "celebrate" the 50-year anniversary of the demise of the *Brooklyn Eagle*.

State University of New York Plattsburgh

Among the ADP activities occurring at SUNY Plattsburgh was a seminar in March on the issue of "Political Bias in the Curriculum," where participants, all of whom are faculty at SUNY Plattsburgh, examined several questions: "What is political bias?"; "Is it prevalent at SUNY Plattsburgh?"; "What effect, if any, might it have on students?"; and "What responsibilities do faculty have to students with viewpoints differing from their own?" A similar symposium is being planned to examine the roles of science and religious faith in curricular decisions.

On April 12-16, the College continued its "Profiles in Commitment Series," where figures in public life discuss their lives of engagement. They also discuss the significance of this engagement, not only for the broader society, but for themselves. The speaker on April 12th was the former Governor of Vermont, Madeline Kunin.

This fall, Professor Jeffrey Thornburg of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology will give a lecture entitled "Webs of Paradox—Democracy and the New Media." Thornburg will be discussing the effects of new media, such as blogs, on democratic engagement. ♦

Upcoming Events . . .

June 16-18, 2005

ADP Second Annual National Conference

Join us for the American Democracy Project national conference in Portland, Oregon.

The plenary speakers who exemplify "Lives of Engagement" include Ernesto Cortes Jr., nationally-known community organizer; Mary Fetchet, one of the leaders of the 911 families who fought for the creation of the 911 Commission; and Ellsworth Culver, co-founder of Mercy Corps.

The topics covered in this conference reflect the entire array of issues in implementing civic engagement on campus, including start-up activities such as campus audits and conversations, programs and projects in the curriculum and co-curriculum, and special issues such as avoiding partisanship and conducting assessment. There will be presentations by many of the 199 participating campuses (and our host campus, Portland State University, a nationally known leader in civic engagement), as well as poster sessions where campuses can display exemplary activities and projects.

The conference will be held at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Portland. Senior administrators, faculty, student affairs professionals, campus staff, and students are all invited to this intense learning experience and celebration of accomplishments. We are offering a reduced registration rate to campus teams of two or more to encourage team participation.

For registration materials visit aascu.org/meetings/05_adp_or/.

For additional information contact Mary-Kathryn McKenna, ADP Project Coordinator at mckennam@aascu.org; 202.478.7833 or Pat Fesci at fescip@aascu.org; 202.478.4668.

July 26-30, 2005

International Conference on Children's Rights & Education for the 21st Century

The First International Conference on Children's Rights & Education for the 21st Century will be held at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The conference will highlight programs that promote the civic engagement of youth around the world. Internationally renowned keynote speakers will welcome academics, teachers, leaders of non-governmental organizations, and government from the United States and abroad.

A World Youth Camp will be held concurrently with the conference. To submit a paper, send brief abstracts as per instructions at 21stcenturyconference.tamucc.edu/. The proceedings of the conference will be published.

September 15-17, 2005

Conference on the Constitution

The School of Social Sciences at Northwestern State University of Louisiana announces the Conference on the Constitution in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

The conference will focus on the history and meaning of the U.S. Constitution and the Louisiana Constitution. In addition, the practical application or relevance of these two documents to individual citizens will be discussed.

Central to the conference will be the related topics of civic education and civic engagement.

Ideas for presentations and/or panel discussions are welcome. Submit ideas to: Alex Aichinger, Associate Professor, Political Science, Northwestern State University at aaaichinger@yahoo.com.

Nov. 10-12, 2005

Network for Academic Renewal Conference

The Civic Engagement Imperative to be held in Providence, Rhode Island is designed to move the conversation about the role of higher education and civic engagement to a national level.

Faculty, student affairs professionals, academic administrators, students, and community leaders are invited to come together to advance student learning and the public good by:

- clarifying definitions and outcomes for civic engagement;
- exploring new kinds of research and scholarship for the creation of coherent and developmental civic engagement programs; and
- considering and enacting innovative collaborations among educational and community leaders.

The Civic Engagement Imperative will explore these topics and the larger questions behind them: What is the role of higher education in preparing students to be citizens in both the workplace and the community? What do students need to know about themselves and the world to

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become socially responsible citizens throughout their professional, civic, and personal lives? How can educators frame the world's urgent problems within the curriculum to effectively prepare students for the complex, multicultural contexts of local, national, and global

communities in which they will live and work? How can we know if learning that takes place has accomplished the immediate and long-term effects expected for civic engagement?

This meeting is sponsored by the Center for Liberal Education

and Civic Engagement, a joint partnership between the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) and Campus Compact. For additional information visit aacu.org/civic_engagement/. ♦



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The American Democracy Project is a multi-campus initiative that seeks to create an intellectual and experiential understanding of civic engagement for undergraduates enrolled at institutions that are members of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

The goal of the project is to produce graduates who understand and are committed to engaging in meaningful actions as citizens in a democracy.

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