

Office of Civic Engagement California State University, Chico

Strategic Plan January 2015

Vision Statement

The Office of Civic Engagement at CSU, Chico will serve the University's civic mission by providing coordination and support for campus and community stakeholders, including:

- Open and collaborative approaches to the development of mutually beneficial partnerships with the broader community.
- Cohesive, meaningful community-based experiences based on both well-established and innovative approaches that lead new generations of increasingly diverse students to become civic-minded, engaged members of a democratic society.
- Fostering the university's civic and educational mission through creative, effective civic pedagogies that address issues of public importance, such as sustainability and social justice in a culturally diverse society.
- Curricular and co-curricular activities, university policies and resource allocations that reflect our commitment to civic engagement, supported by a well-funded and sufficiently staffed Office of Civic Engagement.

Mission Statement

The Office of Civic Engagement promotes, strengthens, sustains, and recognizes civic engagement initiatives that are consistent with the strategic priorities of CSU, Chico, based on respectful partnerships with the broader community, and aimed at developing socially and environmentally responsible students, faculty, and staff.

Strategic Directions

Strategic Direction 1: Community

1. Develop sustainable, mutually beneficial partnerships with clear lines of communication by:
 - a. Designing a comprehensive outreach strategy using a variety of media and technologies that includes campus and community partners.
 - b. Providing a sincere, open invitation to community-based organizations to engage with us in the civic education of our students and community improvement.
 - c. Convening periodic community partner conversations to better understand the needs of community partners and the resources the university can bring to bear on these needs.

- d. Working across campus to establish a method for ongoing connection between campus and community partners (ie. clearinghouse or database)
- e. Identifying underserved communities and working with faculty and staff to develop ways to connect and extend reciprocal partnership opportunities.
- f. Increasing k-12 and community college partnerships to support civic engagement as it relates to college access, student success and the transfer population.

Strategic Direction 2: Students

- 1. Evaluate civic engagement activities and impacts by collecting data on student learning, campus culture, community benefits, and systematically using that information to strengthen our practices.
- 2. Cohesively integrate civic engagement into the curriculum and co-curriculum by supporting the development of:
 - a. Interdisciplinary, scaffolded approaches to civic engagement infused throughout General Education, Majors and Capstone Courses.
 - b. Stronger ties between work in the classroom, the community and co-curriculum to enhance students' civic development.
- 3. Advance civic engagement as a cornerstone of the "Chico Experience" by:
 - a. developing a minor or certificate program that recognizes student activity and accomplishments in this area.
 - b. Clearly defining process for "s" designation of courses (courses identified in catalog as service learning or civic engagement courses).
 - c. Promoting and encouraging the use of "s" designation for appropriate courses – to be integrated into minor or certificate.

Strategic Direction 3: Faculty and Staff

- 1. Support civic engagement through campus activity and rewards by:
 - a. Establishing faculty work groups that develop action plans for faculty, strengthen department rewards, revise Retention, Tenure and Promotion (RTP) standards to more explicitly support civic engagement and engage in constructive, collegial review of course syllabi.
 - b. Providing formal recognition for faculty and staff such as funding, course release, awards, and other incentives to encourage faculty work in this area.
 - c. Working with campus leadership to clarify how existing RTP processes can support and advance civic engagement.
 - d. Identifying academic units to showcase exemplary civic engagement practices
 - e. Establishing an award for "Outstanding Civic Engagement Faculty" and "Outstanding Civic Engagement Staff".
 - f. Collaborating with risk management and other stakeholders to establish clear guidelines and campus-wide risk management procedures.
 - g. Encouraging civic engagement criteria for new hires.

Strategic Direction 4: Resources

1. Secure sustainable resources for civic education by:
 - a. Identifying and securing external sources of support to augment university-based allocations for civic engagement.
 - b. Providing intellectual support to faculty, staff and community partners, as well as release time for course development and faculty/staff partnership development.
 - c. Wisely managing and strategically investing the resources entrusted to the Office of Civic Engagement for the realization of these goals.