Center for Community Engagement (CCE)

Support scholarly work linked to community engagement

Goal Description:

Promote scholarly work associated with Academic Community Engagement activities.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS ---

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Highlight ACE-related research

Performance Objective Description:

Make ACE-related research more visible.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Visibility of ACE research

KPI Description:

Another way to highlight ACE research by SHSU's ACE faculty is to make articles accessible in some form through the CCE website.

Results Description:

Creating a dedicated space on the CCE website to feature ACE-related scholarly work is ongoing. Several other adjustments to the website took precedence this academic year. This task will rollover to the upcoming academic year.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Support ACE research

Performance Objective Description:

Support ACE research activities by reinstating the ACE Researcher program.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

ACE Researcher Program

KPI Description:

The most successful initiative the Center for Community Engagement has offered to date to support ACE-related research was the ACE Researcher Program. Selected through the submission of an informal research proposal, a small group of ACE faculty were invited to participate in a series of workshops, meetings, and conversations about the development of their ACE-related research.

Results Description:

Despite the positive results, 70% of the participants have since published their work, the Center for Community Engagement did not have the funds to support it for a second year. We are hoping to offer it again as funding allows.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Training for ACE faculty

Performance Objective Description:

Train faculty on methods of linking teaching of ACE courses to scholarly work through workshops, presentations, and individual meetings.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Training opportunities

KPI Description:

Offer at least one workshop on ACE scholarship each academic year for ACE faculty.

Results Description:

The Center for Community Engagement held a workshop on ways to link ACE courses to scholarly activity in late spring 2015. A session at the annual teaching workshop in 2015 was dedicated to this topic.

Assess Impact of ACE Coursework

Goal Description:

Maintain a database for assessing the impact of ACE coursework on students and community partners

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS ---

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

ACE Database

Performance Objective Description:

Maintain database of ACE courses, professors, and initiatives.

ACE impact on student learning

Performance Objective Description:

Assess impact of Academic Community Engagement on student learning.

ACE impact on social responsibility

KPI Description:

Analyze the impact of ACE courses on students' social responsibility through written reflections.

Results Description:

The Center for Community Engagement worked with the Office of Planning and Assessment to pilot an assessment of ACE courses on students' social responsibility. The CCE developed the assessment tool, solicited faculty to provide written reflections, and recruited third-party raters. The Office of Planning and Assessment organized and sponsored the rating session. Based on students' written reflections, ACE courses did seem to have a positive impact on social responsibility.

BACE scale

KPI Description:

Implement survey (BACE scale) in fall 2015. Analyze data, disseminate reports to ACE instructors, compare to previous results.

Results Description:

Implementation of the BACE scale survey was postponed this year since we had just approached ACE faculty to administer the written reflection assessment in their spring 2015 classes. The fall survey schedule will resume in fall 2016.

Build ACE Coursework

Goal Description:

Increase the number and variety of ACE courses through design of new community-based curriculum.

Increase ACE courses

Performance Objective Description:

Increase number and variety of ACE courses.

Increase number of ACE courses

KPI Description:

Increase number of ACE courses by 10% over last year.

Results Description:

The number of ACE courses increased by 25% in the 2015-2016 academic year. Faculty teaching ACE courses grew 28%.

Action to build ACE courses

Action Description:

Launching the Minor in Community Leadership will be the focus of the upcoming year's efforts to build ACE coursework. Fall 2016 semester will feature a kick-off event for the minor and advertising to students before and during pre-registration. Additionally, CCE will work with the Office of Graduate Studies to increase the presence of community engagement courses in the graduate curriculum.

Variety of ACE Courses

KPI Description:

Encourage development of an ACE course in at least two academic departments that have not yet offered one.

Results Description:

As of spring 2016, all colleges at SHSU offer ACE courses. Furthermore, all departments at SHSU except two, offer or have offered at least one ACE course. This has dramatically increased the variety of ACE courses at SHSU.

Action to build ACE courses

Action Description:

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New Community-based Curriculum

Performance Objective Description:

Collaborate with community partners to design an interdisciplinary minor to teach and apply skills students need to be leaders in their communities.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Interdisciplinary minor based on ACE

KPI Description:

Seek input from community, draft minor, vet proposal, revise, submit for approval chain, and present to campus and community.

Results Description:

The Minor in Community Leadership was successfully approved by the Council of Academic Deans in August 2015. Publicizing the minor is ongoing and will be boosted by a kick-off event in fall 2016.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Action to build ACE courses

Action Description:

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Foster partnerships with community organizations

Goal Description:

Cultivate and maintain strong, mutually beneficial partnerships with community organizations

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS --

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Community partnerships

Performance Objective Description:

Create and maintain database to track partnerships and assess growth (numbers and depth).

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Grow Community Partnerships

KPI Description:

Increase the number of partnerships with community organizations and develop stronger connections with current partners.

Results Description:

While the number of community partners grew over this academic year, we realize that a community partner database is needed to track partnerships more systematically.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Seek grants to support partnerships

KPI Description:

Seek grants to support course-related projects that include community partners. Apply for at least one external grant annually.

Results Description:

The Center for Community Engagement applied for a grant from Entergy to work with local non-profits to address hunger in Walker County. CCE received $5,000 to support the campus food pantry as it expands into its new facilities in the renovated ABIII.

Promote a Culture of Civic and Community Engagement

Goal Description:

Promote a culture of civic and community engagement on campus that is both locally and nationally recognized

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS --

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

American Democracy Project

Performance Objective Description:

Strengthen the American Democracy Committee by expanding membership to be more representative and by collaborating with other groups on campus.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

ADP expansion

KPI Description:

As of the beginning of the 2015-2016 academic year, the American Democracy Project initiative had shrunk to a small group of faculty. Therefore, this year's focus was to bring new energy into the committee and its initiatives. The campus visit by AASCU's George Mehaffy was inspirational and led to renewed commitments by previous members and helped recruit additional participants. Another way to increase ADP's impact is to collaborate with other groups on events that promote democracy and citizenship.

Results Description:

During the 2015-2016 academic year, the ADP committee expanded to include a broader representation of colleges and departments. Additionally, ADP has agreed to partner with the Global Center for Journalism and Democracy on specific events.

SHSU Participation in ADP Conferences

KPI Description:

To reinvigorate the ADP Committee, our goal in 2015-2016 was to facilitate participation of at least two representatives from SHSU to attend the national ADP conference or other national event supporting civic engagement.

Results Description:

This year one faculty member attended the national Campus Compact conference and two faculty members attended the national American Democracy Project conference. All three are current members of the ADP committee and returned with new ideas for our students.

Community engagement on campus

Performance Objective Description:

Promote, advertise, and recognize Community Engagement at SHSU.

ACE College Showcase

KPI Description:

Sponsor ACE College Showcase event each fall semester.

Results Description:

The Center for Community Engagement supported the College of Criminal Justice ACE Showcase in fall 2015. COCJ ACE Coordinator, Dr. Magdalena Denham, negotiated with the college Dean, invited colleagues, and planned an excellent event. After welcoming remarks from the Dean, a representative of a community partner, the Montgomery County Court at Law #2, came to address the crowd. Several professors already have ACE courses partnering with this entity, and several expressed interest in doing so. The ACE Showcase was successful in making ACE more visible on campus, particularly in Criminal Justice.

Action - Culture of Community Engagement

Action Description:

The promotion of a culture of community engagement on campus will continue during the upcoming academic year, as will efforts to position SHSU as a leader in community engagement. To this year's initiatives, we will resume nominations of SHSU faculty members or administrators for external recognition, and begin data collection for the renewal of the Carnegie classification.

David Payne Award

KPI Description:

Publicize and manage the David Payne Award for Excellence in Academic Community Engagement process annually.

Results Description:

In 2015-2016 the Center for Community Engagement advertised the David Payne Award for Academic Community Engagement and supported the selection process. The pool of applicants for the award was strong. The applications were reviewed and ranked by the ACE Coordinators from each college according to a rubric. The David Payne Award winner was chosen and the result was communicated to the Center for Community Engagement and then to the Provost. The President notified the recipient directly. The recipient, along with the recipients of the three other excellence awards, was featured in an article on SHSU's website.

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Connect to ADP networks

Performance Objective Description:

Connect SHSU ADP committee to regional/national networks to learn best practices in fostering democracy and citizenship and to gain visibility.

SHSU as a regional/national leader in community engagement.

Performance Objective Description:

Establish SHSU as a regional/national leader in community engagement.

Achieve external recognition of SHSU

KPI Description:

Achieve external recognition of SHSU through presentations, awards, professional associations, etc. Maintain the Carnegie classification as an Engaged University.

Results Description:

SHSU's presence as a leader in regional and national Community Engagement groups has grown enormously during 2015-2016. Faculty from SHSU participated in several national community engagement events, and made presentations to community engagement faculty and staff. Representatives of the Center for Community Engagement were asked to organize a panel of experts on community experts and present to the Texas Association of Chief Academic Officers in early 2016. Additionally, SHSU is represented as a sponsor of the Gulf South Summit, the leading regional community engagement association in the U.S. We also sit on the Executive Committee of the Gulf South Summit, further increasing SHSU's contribution to the field and external visibility. In fall 2015, the Center for Community Engagement organized and held the inaugural meeting of Centers for Community Engagement in Texas. The event was so successful that it is slated to continue in fall 2016. The venue will rotate to a different campus each year. Next year's organizer is planning the event in consultation with SHSU's Center for Community Engagement: a tribute to SHSU's leadership role in Texas.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Action - Culture of Community Engagement

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Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

No plan has been added to this level.

Plan for Continuous Improvement

Closing Summary:

Community-Based Research

CCE could do a better job of promoting and supporting faculty in community-based research. Securing funding to support this research is an ongoing objective of the CCE. In the meantime, CCE will investigate alternate support mechanisms including training, workshops, brown bag seminars, a research symposium, etc.

Interdisciplinary ACE Projects

During the past year, CCE has worked to develop large-scale, interdisciplinary projects to provide faculty, students, and staff ongoing ACE opportunities. This new approach to community engagement has resulted in the creation of three projects so far: Program Dignity; Bearkat Community Gardens, and Task Force on Homelessness. Faculty and students in every college are linked to these projects. Due to the initial positive reaction to this model, we hope to expand it next year.