

Center for Community Engagement (CCE)
Assessment Plan Summary

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:

In 2016-2017 we have strengthened our efforts to make community-engagement research more visible in several ways. First, we added a space to feature community engagement related articles by SHSU faculty on our CCE website. Also in the works is a clearinghouse for recent literature on community engagement to support our faculty as they turn to the literature to develop new courses and research projects. Second, we have launched the ACE Gazette series focused on individual ACE projects. Third, we have captured the work of ACE faculty and students on video to make their work more visible.

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:

Budget constraints continued to hinder efforts to reinvigorate the ACE Researcher Program. CCE has attempted to improve visibility of ACE-related research, but in the coming year we hope to create some form of working group to further our support of faculty in community-based ad community-engaged research.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

ACE Researcher Learning Community

Action Description:

Due to budget constraints, we have been unable to offer the ACE Researcher program in the format we offered in the past. The success of the original program in encouraging and supporting ACE-related research warrants attempting a new approach. this year we will create an ACE Researcher Learning Community to support the research and offer a limited number of mini-grants based on project proposals.

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 CCE offered several training opportunities in 2016-2017 including an informational lunch session for all new faculty, a session at the SHSU Teaching Conference, and the ACE Showcase in the CHSS.

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.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

ACE impact on student learning

Performance Objective Description:

Assess impact of Academic Community Engagement on student learning.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

ACE impact on social responsibility

KPI Description:

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

Results Description:

The assessment of ACE impact on social responsibility is staggered. In 2016-2017, we focused on an assessment using the BACE scale. Social responsibility will be measured again in 2017-2018.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

BACE scale

KPI Description:

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

Results Description:

In fall 2016, we used the BACE scale in a sample of UNIV 1301 sections. The pre-test BACE scale was administered at the outset of the semester, before the ACE project, and the post-test was given at the end of the semester. The data have been entered, but due to an ongoing family emergency, the data are still being analyzed. We should be able to report findings soon.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Assess ACE in Core Curriculum

Action Description:

In the upcoming year (2017-2018), we plan to launch assessment of ACE courses on student learning in the core curriculum. The BACE Scale will be administered and results assessed in collaboration with the Office of Planning and Assessment.

Build ACE Coursework

Goal Description:

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

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Increase ACE courses

Performance Objective Description:

Increase number and variety of ACE courses.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Increase number of ACE courses

KPI Description:

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

Results Description:

We are pleased to report that we accomplished our goal of increasing ACE courses by 10%. In any given long semester, approximately 100 ACE courses are offered, so over the course of an academic year, SHSU lists about 200 official ACE courses. In 2016-2017, faculty taught 27 new ACE courses; over 10%!

The breakdown by college is as follows: CHSS (3); COBA (1); COCJ (2); COE (8); COFAMC (3); COHS (4); COSET (2); Other (4).

The programs reporting the largest growth in ACE course offerings in 2016-2017 are Military Science (400%) and Athletic Training in Kinesiology (200%).

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

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:

CCE had productive meetings with faculty in several departments that have not yet offered ACE courses. In fall 2016, Accounting offered an ACed course for the first time. That semester Instructional Leadership also started an ACE course. A Physical Chemistry course is in the works, and conversations are ongoing with Geography to reinvigorate the previously ACE course.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

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 interdisciplinary Minor in Community Leadership was approved in 2016. The first course, Intro to Community Leadership (SOCI 2350) will be offered in fall 2017.

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:

During the 2016-2017 academic year, we have developed partnerships around several CCE initiatives. For example, for Project Dignity we partnered with the Center for Technology and Innovation, several departments on campus (Kinesiology, Psychology, and Sociology), the Center for the Intrepid, The Citadel, and others to develop a project to design and build devices to help wounded veterans regain functionality in day-to-day tasks. Around the issues connected to homelessness locally, CCE connected to the Walker County Housing Authority, the Huntsville Housing Authority, Huntsville ISD, the Good Shepherd Mission, the SHSU Counseling Center, Bearkat One Card, and many community members to explore ways to alleviate housing insecurity for local residents and SHSU students.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Survey SHSU Students on Housing Insecurity

Action Description:

Collaborate with Student Services to administer survey on housing insecurity to SHSU students and developing recommendations for next steps.

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:

To expand Project Dignity, we partnered with the SHSU Center for Technology and Innovation, several departments on campus (Kinesiology, Psychology, and Sociology), the Center for the Intrepid, The Citadel, and others to design a project to design and build devices to help wounded veterans (total and partial amputees) to regain functionality in day-to-day tasks. We submitted a letter of intent to the Department of Defense and were invited to submit a full grant proposal. Although we received generally positive feedback, we did not receive funding. We hope to revise and resubmit.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Revise and Resubmit (?)

Action Description:

Review comments from reviewers about strengths and weaknesses of the Project Dignity grant proposal. Evaluate feasibility of revising and resubmitting another proposal. Assess availability and willingness of research participants to resubmit. Regroup or reconfigure research group to revise and resubmit.

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:

The ADP committee has had a successful transition year. With newly energized leadership and increased diversity in membership, ADP has refocused its mission and launched several new initiatives. To expand membership and increase visibility of ADP on campus, the committee offered copies of Start Talking to all faculty and staff interested in reading and discussing it. ADP has partnered with Fundamentals of Science, FYE (the Common Reader) to train faculty and students in techniques for Deliberative Dialogue. This will continue into 2017-2018.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Deliberative Dialogues

Action Description:

Continue training faculty and students in techniques for Deliberative Dialogue in 2017-2018.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

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:

In fall 2016, Campus Compact held a training seminar for civic engagement and leadership. Three representatives from SHSU attended, representing faculty and staff. In May of 2017, three SHSU representatives attended the annual ADP meeting (faculty, staff, administrator) and specifically a pre-conference workshop focused on the Engaged Campus Carnegie Classification renewal application process. These professional development opportunities are essential to infusing local initiatives with best practices and new ideas.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Community engagement on campus

Performance Objective Description:

Promote, advertise, and recognize Community Engagement at SHSU.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

ACE College Showcase

KPI Description:

Sponsor ACE College Showcase event each fall semester.

Results Description:

In fall 2016, CCE partnered with the College of Humanities and Social Sciences to host an ACE Showcase. Unique this year was the participation of the CHSS Advisory Board. The event was well received, although perhaps the Friday afternoon time slot should be reconsidered.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Rethink Schedule

Action Description:

Last year's ACE Showcase was planned to coincide with the College's Advisory Board meeting on a Friday afternoon. Although the showcase was well-received, the Friday afternoon time slot deterred many participants. The 2017-2018 ACE Showcase should be held t a time that encourages increased participation.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

David Payne Award

KPI Description:

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

Results Description:

Yes. From a pool of outstanding candidates, the David Payne Award for Excellence in Community Engagement was awarded to Dr. Jim Dozier in the College of Criminal Justice.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

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.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

SHSU as a regional/national leader in community engagement.

Performance Objective Description:

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

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

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:

In 2016-2017, CCE directors have served on the Board of the Gulf South Summit (largest regional community engagement association), participated as a founding member of the Greater Houston Council on Civic Engagement, given keynote address at University of Houston Downtown's conference on High Impact Practices, presented at the Gulf South Summit in Greensboro, NC, attended a Campus Compact workshop, and an ADP conference. Additionally, we attended the Gathering 2.0 (Texas Association of community engagement professionals, founded by SHSU), and made multiple campus visits to centers for community engagement on other campuses. In short, the Center for Community Engagement at SHSU is seen as an active leader in the field and a resource for a large network of colleagues.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

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

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

CCE could support and promote Academic Community Engagement based on large, interdisciplinary projects. Such projects would address community needs in ways that allow professors to link their courses to an already existing project. This would make it easier for faculty by reducing start-up work and would allow for exchange of ideas among students across academic disciplines.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

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. We attempted a large Department of Defense grant this year, and hope to resubmit it in the future. We also were able to support finding and securing a small grant from Campus Compact for the Bearkat Community Gardens initiative. As we continue to work on securing external funding, we may consider forming some sort of working group in support of faculty wishing to transform their ACE successes (or even their challenges) into publications.

By designing and implementing interdisciplinary ACE Projects with faculty, students, staff, and community partner organizations, CCE can help lower the entrance barriers to Academic Community Engagement. Large projects around which interdisciplinary groups can form are seen as beneficial in several ways. One, they may help avoid overtaxing our local partners with many projects and numerous students. Also, creating and designing separate projects discourage some faculty members from attempting ACE courses. Interdisciplinary projects allow the professors to link an existing project to appropriate course content more easily. The Bearkat Community Gardens initiative is one example of this. Project Dignity is another. We hope to continue developing this model of Academic Community Engagement in the upcoming year.

Plan for Continuous Improvement

Closing Summary:**Increase Staff Involvement**

Through ACE courses, many faculty members and students at SHSU are engaged with communities in myriad ways. The CCE would like to connect with, and recognize, the many SHSU staff members who actively contribute to our communities. To this end, in 2017-2018, the CCE will meet with Staff Council and the Academic Affairs Division staff to explore staff interest in a Staff Outreach Network. This group would identify community projects and coordinate SHSU contributions/participation with the support of the CCE.

Increase Visibility of ADP

With new ADP group, and the new Deliberative Dialogue project, the CCE would like to increase ADP's visibility on campus. We plan to communicate with faculty about the opportunities to create student-citizens through training options and events.

Measure Community Impact of ACE Courses

The CCE has worked to assess ACE course impact on student learning. However, we need to develop a sustainable plan to evaluate the impact of ACE courses on community. In 2017-2018, we will create the instrument(s) and assessment plan to add this type of assessment.