

The Center for Academic Community Engagement

Two-Year Strategic Plan

Vision

To have Sam Houston State University recognized as an exemplary model for an “Engaged Campus” through strong collaborative partnerships with the local, national, and global communities.

Mission

The mission of The Center for Academic Community Engagement is to promote reciprocal community/curricular partnerships to enhance student learning and meet community needs. The Center also aims to strengthen the experiential understanding and commitment of our students to civic engagement.

Goals & Objectives for 2015-2017

1. Prepare and support faculty in designing model academic community engagement coursework. *[Supports Office of the Provost Goal: ‘Promote and support the development and delivery of a rigorous, contemporary curriculum.’]*
 - a. Provide two workshops/consultations on ACE course design and development per academic year.
 - b. Review and approve twenty new ACE course applications per year.
 - c. Assist SAM Center advisors in promoting the value/impact of the ACE courses through the publication and distribution of 200 informational flyers.
 - d. Provide mini-grants for 10 ACE faculty members to support community outreach activities.
 - e. Seek one additional outside funding source (similar to our Target funding) through grants or corporate sponsorships.
 - f. Establish the formation of an ACE community of learners comprised of faculty members representing all colleges.
 - g. Initiate at least two ACE projects based on cross-disciplinary collaborations.
2. Promote faculty scholarship associated with outreach and partnership activities (publications and presentations). *[Supports Office of the Provost Goal: ‘Promote the pursuit and awareness of scholarly activities, creative endeavors, and faculty/staff accomplishments and expertise.’]*
 - a. Continue to promote ACE-related scholarly activity.
 - b. Offer two workshops on publication opportunities for ACE-related topics
 - c. Maintain visibility of the accomplishments of five ACE faculty members per semester through a variety of media outlets.
 - d. Send two members of the Engaged Scholars Committee and American Democracy Project Committee to a national or international conference to present papers.

3. Maintain a database for assessing the impact of ACE coursework on students and community partners. *[Supports Office of the Provost Goal: 'Serve as a centralized source for planning, assessment, and reporting in the Division of Academic Affairs' & 'Provide appropriate resources to promote student recruitment, success, and retention.']*
 - a. Collect and analyze feedback from ACE faculty members and community partners.
 - b. Align and analyze ACE student learning outcomes with Texas Core Curriculum specifically with regard to teamwork, social responsibility and personal responsibility. We will begin with a sample study of two ACE classes.
 - c. Facilitate the collection of all data on university-wide volunteer initiatives.
4. Help promote a culture of civic and community engagement on campus that is both locally and nationally recognized. *[Supports Office of the Provost Goal: 'Promote the importance of service, civic engagement, and exposure to diverse cultures in the education of our students.']*
 - a. Increase the number of courses offered with the ACE designation by ten percent, especially in the core courses.
 - b. Promote academic community engagement as it relates to university, college, and department mission statements, goals, objectives, recognition, and rewards within two colleges.
 - c. Promote, advertise, and select an annual recipient of the David Payne Award for Excellence in Community Engagement.
 - d. Increase visibility of SHSU as the Engaged Campus through applications for the President's Honor Roll, the Washington Center's Higher Education Civic Engagement Award, and national membership in Campus Compact and AASCU's American Democracy Project Committee.
 - e. Support student-led community outreach by selecting one student per year for the ACE Fellows Endowment.
 - f. Promote two student-led civic engagement activities through the American Democracy Project Committee's collaborations with SHSU political clubs and organizations.
 - g. Co-sponsor Constitution Day (through History Department) and Community Engagement Essay Contest (through the Writing Center) yearly.
 - h. Promote one annual "ACE Showcase" celebration to recognize the results of ACE professors' and community partners' collaborations from one college.
 - i. Support the President and Provost in their efforts to present SHSU as an Engaged Campus by supplying data, examples, and testimonials as requested.
5. Cultivate and maintain strong, mutually beneficial partnerships with community organizations. *[Supports Office of the Provost Goal: 'Promote the importance of service, civic engagement, and exposure to diverse cultures in the education of our students.']*
 - a. Maintain an up-to-date community organizations database of contact information, key personnel, organizational needs, and possible or on-going course connections and increase this list annually.
 - b. Optimize Center website to link to 5 community partners.

- c. Publish 5 articles per year (i.e. in the Huntsville Item, City Connections, Houstonian) highlighting community organizations' collaborations with university professors.
- d. Seek council, support, and advice from The Center's Advisory Board during two annual meetings.