



Introduction: Civic Agency Curriculum



Introduction

CIVIC LEADERSHIP

For years, MNCC has used “civic leadership” to describe one of our student development goals. Yet the term leadership may be a barrier for people who understand it as positional, individualistic, exclusive, even oppressive. “Civic agency” offers a framework that emphasizes all people’s capacity to be effective problem solvers and have agency/power to address the issues they care about. (See “Augsburg Indicators of Civic Agency” working document at (<http://mncampuscompact.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2016/10/Augsburg-Indicators-of-civic-agency-October-19-2016.pdf>))

EXPERIENTIAL WORKSHOPS

Our network values the full participation of all people in our democracy and communities. The experiential workshops in the curriculum below are designed to help participants develop their civic agency – whether those participants are college/university students, staff, faculty, or administrators, other adults, or adolescents. We encourage you to use them in classes, clubs, organizations or informal groups, singly or multiple workshops together, whatever makes sense in your context. We hope you will engage not only those who already see themselves as leaders, but also the people whose vision and talents are too often unrecognized or undervalued.

THEMES: SELF, US, NOW

The workshops are organized into the three themes—Self, Us, and Now—following Marshall Ganz’s public narrative framework (see Figure 18.5 at <http://marshallganz.usmblogs.com/files/2012/08/Public-Narrative-Collective-Action-and-Power.pdf>).

Our work with the Cultural Agility Collaboration also demonstrated the power of attending to the center of Building the Field of Community Engagement’s model, which includes identity, culture/spirituality, relationships, power, and healing. Especially in a state with stark racial disparities and increasing diversity in religion, national origins, language, and more, building understanding and collaboration across differences is essential.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Minnesota Campus Compact staff is grateful to this project’s many contributors across our network, who shared their insights about potentially valuable resources as well as specific tools and exercises. Individuals and organizations responsible for developing content are named in each specific workshop guide.

FREE USE OF THE CURRICULUM

Workshop materials are not copyrighted, but instead hold an attribution, non-commercial Creative Commons license allowing anyone to use or adapt the materials as long as they do not sell the work to others, remove the legends from the work that provide attribution as to source, and include a copy of the terms of use with copies of the work they distribute. If you have questions about these terms, please contact info@mncampuscompact.org.

PREPARING TO FACILITATE

Each workshop guide includes brief suggestions for preparing to facilitate that particular session. More generally, we would emphasize the importance of facilitators investing in their own personal work around issues addressed in the workshop, with attention to their identities, culture, values, strengths, and areas for growth.

Basic facilitation skills and an authentic commitment to fostering brave and respectful spaces for continuous learning will matter more than age, position, or academic credentials.

EVALUATION

Please use the evaluation handouts provided with each workshop and email scanned copies to info@mncampuscompact.org, or have your participants complete the online evaluation at <http://tinyurl.com/ja28zek>. Doing so will both document and enhance the curriculum's results.

CONTRIBUTE

Rather than a fixed curriculum, we see this as a first step that will be expanded and enriched by others' content contributions over time. Whether that means sharing a workshop guide on a topic not yet covered or suggesting improvements to existing materials, we very much welcome your input at info@mncampuscompact.org.

OTHER RELEVANT RESOURCES

- ❑ Bonner Program Resources (see especially the detailed Training and Enrichment developmental plan) - <http://bonner.pbworks.com/w/page/103503457/Bonner%20Wiki%20Home%20Page>
- ❑ IUPUI's Civic-Minded Graduate Scale - <http://csl.iupui.edu/teaching-research/opportunities/civic-learning/graduate.shtml>
- ❑ Imagining America's Civic Professionalism white paper and draft rubric - <http://imaginingamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Civic-Professionalism-White-Paper.pdf>
- ❑ The Merrimack College Center for Engaged Democracy's "Core Competencies in Civic Engagement" - <https://www.merrimack.edu/live/files/160-core-competencies-in-civic-engagement>
- ❑ UCLA Higher Education Research Institute's "A Social Change Model of Leadership Development" - <http://www.heri.ucla.edu/PDFs/pubs/ASocialChangeModelofLeadershipDevelopment.pdf>

- ❑ Community Learning Partnership's "University Education for Community Change" - <http://communitylearningpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/University-Education-for-Community-Change.pdf>