

CAMPUS COMPACT

INDICATORS OF ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

Hispanic-Serving Institutions

Executive Summary

Campus Compact's Indicators of Engagement Project (IOEP) is exploring civic and community engagement at different types of higher education institutions, including Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs). This project has found that HSIs have distinctive approaches to engagement that differ from practices at other minority- and majority-serving institutions. Campus Compact has identified exemplary approaches that are models not only for other HSIs, but for higher education as a whole.

Initial Project Findings

- At Hispanic-serving institutions, the campus population *is* the community. Campus members tend not to distinguish between the mission of the school and the needs of the community.
- HSIs gain the trust of the community by focusing engagement efforts on family development, reaching out to community members of all ages, and providing services for family units as a whole.
- Institutional support of community festivals and other key cultural events serves to strengthen relationships with community partners.
- HSIs develop a culture that supports and encourages faculty development in seeking community connections, even if the institutions cannot provide financial resources for such efforts.
- HSIs offer large amounts of scholarship money, greatly increasing access to the institution.
- Creative use of limited resources and successful grant writing are critical to sustaining community outreach and engagement.

New Resources

The Campus Compact database of Model Programs at Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) is now live on our website at www.compact.org/indicators/MSI_models_index.php.

Complete project findings will be included in a book on engagement at MSIs, to be published in 2005. Information about this publication is available on our website at www.compact.org/publications.

"The university's mission challenges students to 'confront the critical issues of society and to seek justice and peace' as they begin to better understand themselves, clarify their personal values, and recognize their responsibility to the world community... [S]tudents at St. Edward's are transformed. They come to recognize that civic engagement is as important as personal success."

George E. Martin
President, St. Edward's
University

Data on Civic and Community Engagement at Minority-Serving Institutions

According to Campus Compact's 2003 Annual Member Survey, completed by more than 400 colleges and universities, minority-serving institutions (MSIs) are more likely than other types of schools to:

Require service and service-learning for graduation

- 18% of MSIs require service for graduation, compared with 8% of all institutions
- 17% of MSIs require service-learning for graduation, compared with 9% of all institutions

Provide support structures for engagement activities

- 96% of MSIs have a community service or service-learning office, compared with 83% of all institutions
- 92% of MSIs have a community service or service-learning director, compared with 80% of all institutions

Establish partnerships with K-12 schools and faith-based organizations

- 100% of MSIs have an existing partnership with one or more K-12 schools, compared with 93% of all institutions
- 90% of MSIs have an existing partnership with one or more faith-based organizations, compared with 69% of all institutions

Project Goals

The IOEP is a three-year project of Campus Compact to document and disseminate best practices of civic and community engagement at different types of colleges and universities. In addition, this project seeks to help campuses deepen their engaged practices by institutionalizing their approach to civic and community engagement.

Campus Compact is a national coalition of more than 900 college and university presidents—representing some 5 million students—who are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education.

"All the Hispanic-serving institutions visited this year... treat each student with such great dignity and respect, and instill in them—through all of their communications and interactions—that they are important, that they are needed in and by their community, and that they have a responsibility to give back."

Margarita Maria Lenk
Associate Professor, Colorado State University, and Campus Compact Engaged Scholar

"Our graduates leave prepared for a world that hungers for values-based, ethical leadership that is, first and foremost, modeled by our faculty and community partners"

Tessa Martinez Pollack
President, Our Lady of the Lake University



Campus Compact

For more information, please contact Jenn Meeropol, Project Coordinator, at jmeeropol@compact.org or (401) 867-3950. Additional information is available at www.compact.org/indicators.