

Baseline Data Indicators Project Lead: Report from Dr. Theresa Ennis, Tennessee Tech University

(Full report attached in Appendix)

A survey was conducted to collect baseline data on Civic Engagement in TN Higher Education institutions for the 2008-2009 academic year in collaboration with the TN Campus Compact, Volunteer TN, and The TN Corporation for National and Community Service.

The TN Campus Compact institutions and TN Institutions were invited to submit quantitative data concerning student engagement off campus, major off-campus service issue areas, as well as federal work hours and service on campus. Additionally, institutionalization of service was recorded in the involvement of faculty training and courses containing service components. Qualitative data was also collected on the depth of partnerships between centers of service and civic engagement and various other entities in higher education. A total of **23** institutions responded with data as listed in the Appendix.

Results of this survey indicate that out of the 23 reporting institutions, a total of over **89,189** students were involved in service off campus in various ways during the 2008-2009 academic year. As reported, **46,660** of these students were involved in off campus service tied directly to their college course work. Institutions also indicated that **27,233** of these students performed this service with their student organizations or faith based institutions. Additionally, **15,296** of these students served for other reasons or for their federal work study program.

The total number of service hours performed by these students reported was **723,539** volunteer service hours, for a total dollar value of **\$14,651,664.75**.

Major off campus important issues or topics addressed by these institutions with the most popular issues listed respectively include: Hunger, Environmental, Homelessness/Housing, Child Mentoring, Services to the Elderly, Faith related, Child Tutoring, and Adult Literacy. Additional Issues were indicated; however, the above were the most prominent and stood out in the list. Almost all of the reporting institutions participate in National Service Day events.

Concerning the institutionalization of service, collectively, respondents reported that **975** courses were listed in the catalog showing a service learning component, and **249** courses were rated as giving credit for civic engagement. In the 23 reporting institutions, **561** faculty members were trained in service learning, and **1015** faculty members incorporated service learning into their courses.

Results show that **26%** of institutions in our sample integrate civic engagement as a graduation requirement, and **74%** of institutions indicated that civic engagement was a meaningful goal to their institution's mission. Results also show that student government and Fraternities and Sororities are highly involved in civic engagement. In our sample, **74%** have centers or offices that are established for civic engagement in the 23 reporting institutions, and **65%** of these centers have a full-time staff member dedicated to the center. About half of the centers reported a part-time staff member dedicated to the center. Approximately half of these centers also have an established budget for their program.

Each institution described their partnerships with the following entities: Alumni, Local government, State government, Federal government, Student government, Student organizations and publications, Fraternity and Sorority affiliates, Athletic teams and divisions, The President's office, Local/state/national business (including Corporate), Faculty organizations, Foundations and national parent organizations, Community Service organizations/agencies, Other Higher Education institutions, and other resources for service (See Appendix).

Future Actions:

Survey the remaining TNCC contracted institutions-; Survey the other TBR higher education institutions outside of those in the TNCC- (Responses received from 8 more institutions)

Compile a review of literature of civic engagement and service learning- (In Process)

Submit article for publication on behalf of TTU and the TNCC, Volunteer TN, and the TN CNS- (In Process)

Appendix: Report on Baseline Data 2008-2009