From Campus to Community:
Cultivating Civically Engaged Leaders

2020 Quality Enhancement Plan Proposal

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Cultivating engaged citizens and well-rounded scholars who are prepared to act
Civic Engagement at Mason

At Mason we define civic engagement as...

The **collaboration** between Mason faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the community for the **mutually beneficial exchange** of knowledge, resources and service in the context of partnership and reciprocity.

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Call to Action

“The SCHEV Policy names civic engagement as a core competency in order to emphasize the vital importance of the work colleges have already been doing in this area, and to encourage institutions to think in a more focused and deliberate manner about how they are preparing students to become better citizens. Civic engagement is too important an outcome to be left to chance.”

As of academic year 2018-2019

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Alignment with Strategic Plan

• Goal #1: Deliver a transformative Mason Learning experience that is experiential, global, and technology rich
• Goal #4: 100,000 Career-Ready Graduates
• Goal #6: Community Builder
• Goal #8: Diverse Academic Community
• Goal #9: Support Teaching and Faculty Excellence
• Goal #11: Research of Consequence
Embedding Civic Engagement into Curriculum and Student Experience

- **Transition Programs (early touchpoints)**
  - Orientation and First Year Experience
  - UNIV 100 courses

- **Campus Wide Initiatives**
  - Mason Votes
  - Dialogue across Difference
  - Mason Impact CECL courses

- **High Impact Experiences**
  - Bonner Leader Program
  - Undergraduate Research
  - Living Learning Community
  - Service Scholar Program
  - Graduate teaching and research in community engagement

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Funding for Engaged Research and Teaching

• Build long-term partnerships between faculty and community
• Community-based research funding
  • Faculty
  • Graduate students
  • Undergraduate students
• Faculty development and training
• Community-based course and research assistants (service-learning)
• Community Advisory Board
• Assessment

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Assessment

Positive Outcomes for Mason Students Engaged in Civic Learning

- Outperformed peers on most NSSE indicators including:
  - Reflective and Integrated Learning
  - Collaborative Learning
  - Discussions across difference
  - Student-Faculty Interaction
- More likely to be satisfied with experience at Mason
- Greater preparedness for career and post-baccalaureate study
- Increased satisfaction with quality of instruction in courses

*Mason students are engaged in civic learning and community engagement at rates significantly lower than our peers*

National Survey of Student Engagement, 2018

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Student Success

- Retention and graduation
- Career development
- Satisfaction with college

Intrapersonal Development

- Personal efficacy, identify, spiritual growth and moral development
- Cultural awareness, social responsibility
- Increased sense of belonging

Learning Outcomes

- Connections w/faculty (esp. for underrepresented students)
- Critical thinking & problem solving
- Application of knowledge

*George Mason University*

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(Dugan & Komives, 2010), (Lockeman, K.S. & Pelco, L.E., 2013),
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**Assessment Plan**

**Tools/Measures**

- National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)
- AAC&U Civic Engagement VALUE Rubric
- Civic-Minded Graduate Narrative Prompt, IUPUI Center for Service & Learning

**Institution Level**

(enrollment data, course information, program reviews)

To what degree is civic engagement institutionalized at our university?

Which students are participating?

Does civic engagement participation impact retention & graduation?

**Program Level**

(course evaluations, program evaluations, senior survey, NSSE)

How are participating students’ attitudes and beliefs about civic engagement impacted by their participation?

How do participating students describe the quality of their learning?

**Student Level**

(Bonner Leader program, LLC, student leaders)

What learning has taken place across time for students who participate in multi-year civic engagement programs?
Building an Infrastructure to Support Sustained Engagement - Staffing

Office of Community Engagement and Civic Learning

- Director of Civic Engagement
- Associate Director, Assessment
- Program Manager, Bonner and Leadership
- Faculty Fellow, Community Engagement
- Coordinator, Community Partnerships
- Graduate Assistant, Community-Based Learning

Light green positions are either new positions, or positions moved from other campus offices.

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Civically Engaged Leaders QEP Funding Areas

Student Programs
- Bonner Leader Program**
- Service Scholars Program (research and course based)
- Orientation and First Year Transition Programming**
- Mason Votes and Democratic Engagement**

Research and Teaching
- Community Engaged Research Grants (faculty and students)
- Faculty Development Program
- Course Development Grants**
- Annual Civic Engagement Symposia

Infrastructure
- Community Partner Capacity Building

Community Engagement Tracking Software
- Assessment Tools
- Communications and Outreach Tools
- Online Modules for Civic Engagement

Training and professional development opportunities
- Community Fellows Program
- Community Advisory Board
- Engage at Mason Conference**

**indicates programs that already receive some funding - additional funding needed to scale
How should students be different by the time they leave from when they entered?

“Community engagement enhances curriculum, teaching and learning, prepares educated, engaged citizens, strengthens democratic values and civic responsibility, addresses critical societal issues, and contributes to the public good.”

- Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching