

# UTSA<sup>®</sup>

Center for Civic  
Engagement

FS 4.438 – [UTSA.EDU/CCE](https://UTSA.EDU/CCE)  
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
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- ▶ 1 of 361 institutions that hold the Community Engagement Classification
- ▶ Four areas that need continued development:
  - ▶ **Assessment** – community perceptions, tracking and recording intentional wide engagement, impacts on students, faculty, the community and the institution
  - ▶ **Partnerships** – being intentional – moving toward reciprocity and mutuality
  - ▶ **Faculty Rewards** – looking for clear policies for recognizing community engagement in teaching and learning, in research and creative activity
  - ▶ **Integration and Alignment** – aligning CE with other campus priorities and initiatives to achieve greater impact – FYE, Learning Communities, Diversity initiatives, etc.

# CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION

▶ **Mission Statement**

The Center for Civic Engagement at The University of Texas at San Antonio empowers students, faculty and staff to serve society through community engaged scholarship that enriches learning, promotes civic literacy and contributes to the study of community needs and resources.

▶ **Vision**

UTSA students, faculty and staff develop a deep appreciation for serving society as an engaged citizen who takes an active role in democracy and enhancing the quality of life for the common good.

CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



- ▶ Service-Learning course development and support
- ▶ Faculty development for civic engaged scholarship and teaching
- ▶ Cultivation of a civically engaged culture on campus
- ▶ Develop additional student programming that enhances civic literacy and engagement
- ▶ Enhance the university's relationship with community partners
- ▶ Tracks university-wide civic engagement efforts and reports collective impact

## WORK OF THE CENTER

- ▶ Creating a consistent support structure for Community Based Learning (Service-Learning Courses)
- ▶ Collaborate with Research on supporting Community Based Research initiatives
- ▶ Development of a Community Based Work Study program in Fall 2015 – ROWDY CORPS
- ▶ Development of a Civic Scholars Program
- ▶ Working with COPP to begin a Civic Engagement Minor in the Department of Public Administration in COPP
- ▶ Annual Civic Engagement Summit in Fall semester with Keynote speaker and showcase of our engagement initiatives

## PROGRAMMATIC ELEMENTS

- ▶ On avg. we offer 30 Service-Learning (S-L) Courses per semester
  - ▶ There are more classes, but they are not designated currently
  - ▶ About 900 – 1000 students each semester
  - ▶ On avg. 10 – 15 hours of community engagement per student
  - ▶ Spring 2015 semester we completed close to 7000 hours of engaged learning in the community
- ▶ We do have a S-L attribute in ASAP that is searchable in the attributes box (It appears as “S” in the notes section)
- ▶ We have surveyed students over three semesters from these courses
  - ▶ Overall there is great satisfaction with their experiences
  - ▶ Concerns are raised over transportation to sites and clear expectations with the partners from the faculty

## SERVICE-LEARNING COURSES

- ▶ Service-Learning is classified as a High Impact practice by AACU with strong data to support this claim
- ▶ Students who enroll in a S-L course early in their academic career are more likely to be retained, to define or confirm their major of study and to have a higher GPA throughout their studies
- ▶ We have an obligation to society to ensure that students/graduates have the skills and knowledge to be engaged citizens
- ▶ Civic engagement outcomes are extremely poor, particularly among the demographic we serve at UTSA

## WHY SUPPORT COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING AND RESEARCH

- ▶ Embarking on an effort this semester to develop a glossary of terms on Community Engagement at UTSA
- ▶ By clearly defining Community Engagement at UTSA the hope would be to advance the conversation at the College and Department levels
- ▶ The growth of community based learning and research are obviously tied to structures of reward and incentive
- ▶ Looking for your input and ideas to advance the conversation...

## A DEFINING COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



# QUESTIONS?

Thank you!

