

2023 Day of Dialogue: Civic Learning & Engagement

Welcome!

Where We Are & How We Got Here

Jodi Fisler

Day of Dialogue: Civic Learning & Engagement

June 5, 2023



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER
EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

For the next 15 minutes

- **Where we've been**
- **Where we are**
- **What we're doing today**



A little history

- **2016: SCHEV begins work on a new student learning assessment policy, names civic engagement as a required competency**
- **2017: First convening on civic engagement**
- **2020: Pandemic**



2022 Day of Dialogue



Challenges/Barriers

- **Silos/Lack of communication**
- **Lack of trust** 
- **Inconsistent attention to civic engagement (turnover, burnout)**
- **Insufficient capacity (money, staff, time, skills, confidence)**
- **Unclear definitions** 

Opportunities/Actions

- **Create regular opportunities for talking, sharing, collaborating** 
- **Develop skills among faculty/staff as well as students** 
- **Provide resources & recognition**
- **Embed civic learning/engagement into culture, curriculum & programs**

What To Do First?

Civic Engagement Advisory Group

- Kim Dean-Anderson, U of Richmond
- Analise Gammel, Serve Virginia
- Lacey Grey Hunter, Christopher Newport U
- Connie Jorgensen, Piedmont Virginia CC
- David Kirkpatrick, James Madison U
- Heather Lettner-Rust, Longwood U
- Elizabeth Miller, William & Mary
- Ashley Offutt, Radford U (now at VT)
- Anne-Marie Turnage, Virginia State U
- Eric Vanover, Germanna CC
- Russ Wood, Southwest Virginia CC
- Kristen Wright, George Mason U

Priorities 2023-2028

Develop a comprehensive “roadmap” or guide(s) to successful civic education at the college level

Find out what students' priorities are. How/Under what conditions will they show up?

Provide a central database of civic education and engagement resources geared toward higher education

Develop joint civic learning opportunities for students across institutions



Create ethical partnerships with community organizations/partners

Use local history to show college students how they can take action and better engage with their communities

Partner with local nonprofits and community groups offering civic engagement opportunities for your students

Create a program at the state level that integrates college-age voice in state government

Create opportunities for students to meet with elected representatives, share their experiences with legislators

Provide continuing education opportunities for faculty and college administrators



ACTION


Joint civic learning opportunities

Trust-building

Professional/Faculty development

Constructive Dialogue Institute Cohort


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Fostering Constructive Dialogue

Our psychology-based educational tools help people discuss complex and divisive topics with ease, even when they disagree.

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[Workplace](#)



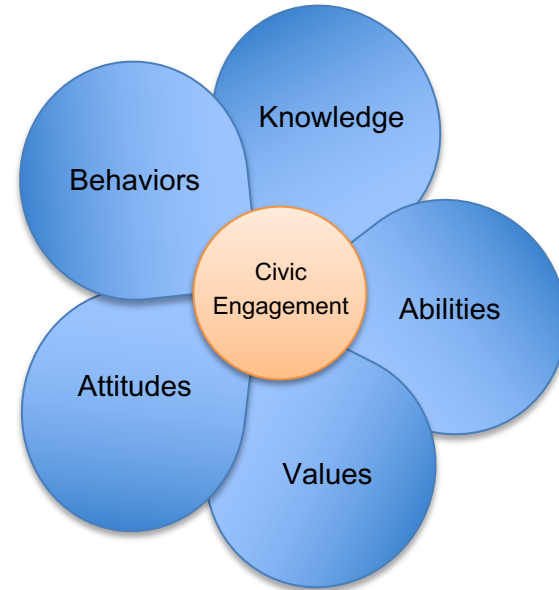
ACTION

Clearer definitions

Comprehensive guide(s) to successful civic education

From the SCHEV policy:

- **Civic engagement** – an array of knowledge, abilities, values, attitudes, and behaviors that in combination allow individuals to contribute to the civic life of their communities.

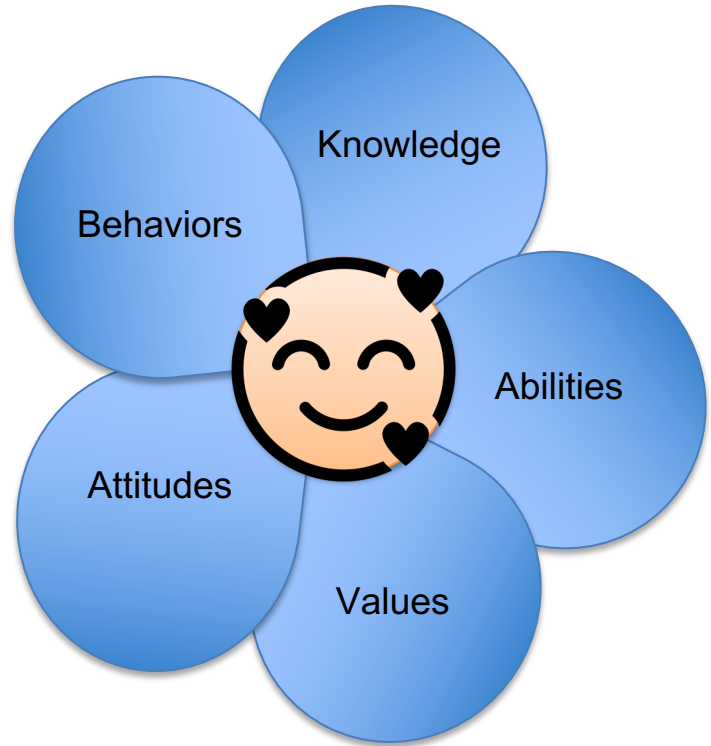
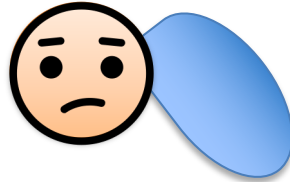
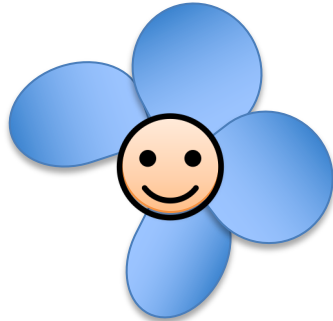
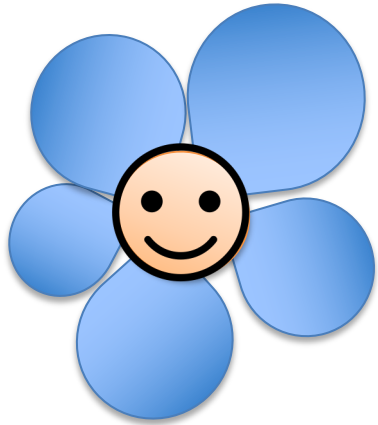




Flowers are forgiving...



...to a point



Which brings us to today

Topics you want to talk about

Depolarization

Curricular integration
across majors/programs

Social & racial issues

Community engagement
in distance learning

Institutional
commitment

Student motivation

Developing non-political
engagement opportunities

Political climate

Rubrics

Inclusive civic
engagement

Freedom of speech

Engagement in
local politics

Viewpoint diversity

Student & faculty support

Connecting non-political
civic engagement with
health of democracy

Student voting

Data visualization

Civil dialogue

K-16 bridges


Role of libraries

Discussion #1

Mapping (and Reflecting on) Civic Learning & Engagement Statewide



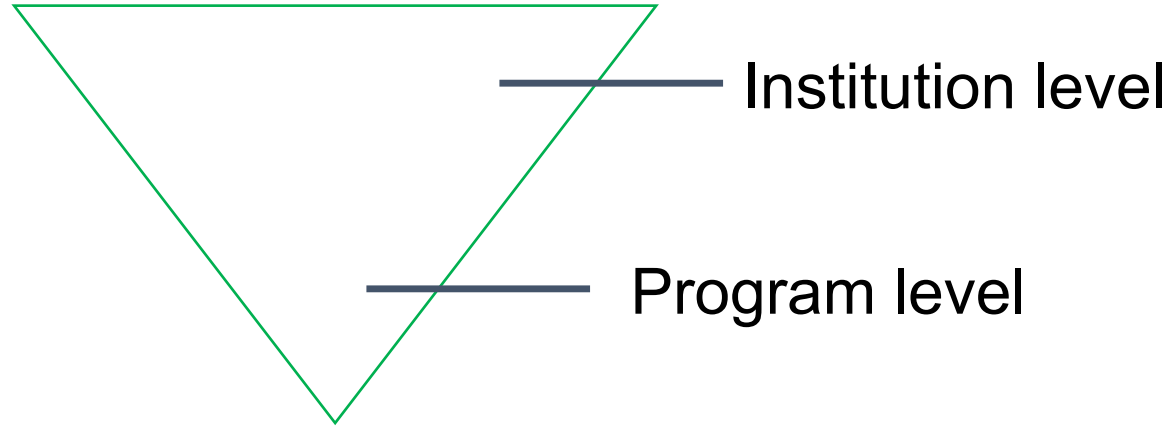
Heather Lettner-Rust, Director, Civitae Core Curriculum/Professor of English
Pam Tracy, Director, Center for Faculty Enrichment/Professor of Comm. Studies
Longwood University



In this session, you will have the opportunity to reflect on CE&L at your institutional and program level, in order to:

- contribute to our collective understanding and mapping of civic engagement and learning within and across institutions;
- share ideas, successes, and offer tip/strategies; and
- prepare for the next sessions.

SCHEV Statement on Civic Engagement as a resource



If we were to create a CE&L resource guide to include statewide CE&L initiatives, FAQs, and tips/strategies...





Mountain Empire
Community College

Southwest
Virginia Community College
Inspire • Transform • Strengthen

NEW RIVER
Community and Technical College

VT VIRGINIA
TECH.
RADFORD
UNIVERSITY

JMU

University
of Mary
Washington

GEORGE
MASON
UNIVERSITY



CLDE
Constructive
Dialogue
Institute

UNIVERSITY
of VIRGINIA
PVCC
PEDMONT VIRGINIA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

GERMANNA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

LONGWOOD
UNIVERSITY

VSU
VIRGINIA STATE

WILLIAM & MARY
CHARTERED 1693

OLD DOMINION
UNIVERSITY

CAMP
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

VCU

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Reynolds
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF
RICHMOND

Virginia Service

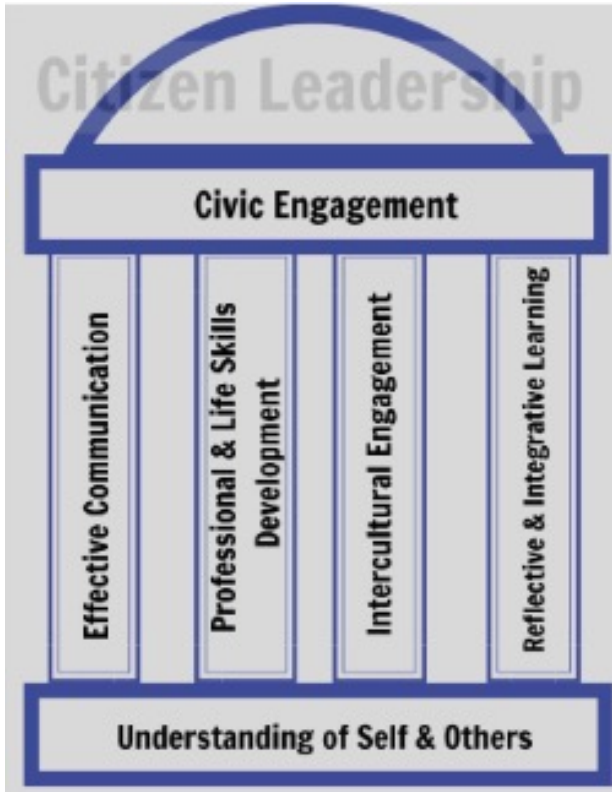
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Institutional Level Reflection

- How and/or where does your institution “define” civic learning and engagement and the goals? (e.g. mission? strategic priorities, or is a comprehensive definition missing or incomplete?)
- Where is CE&L “housed” and/or who is responsible for implementation?
- Where do you see gaps or opportunities?

Longwood University Institutional Level Reflection

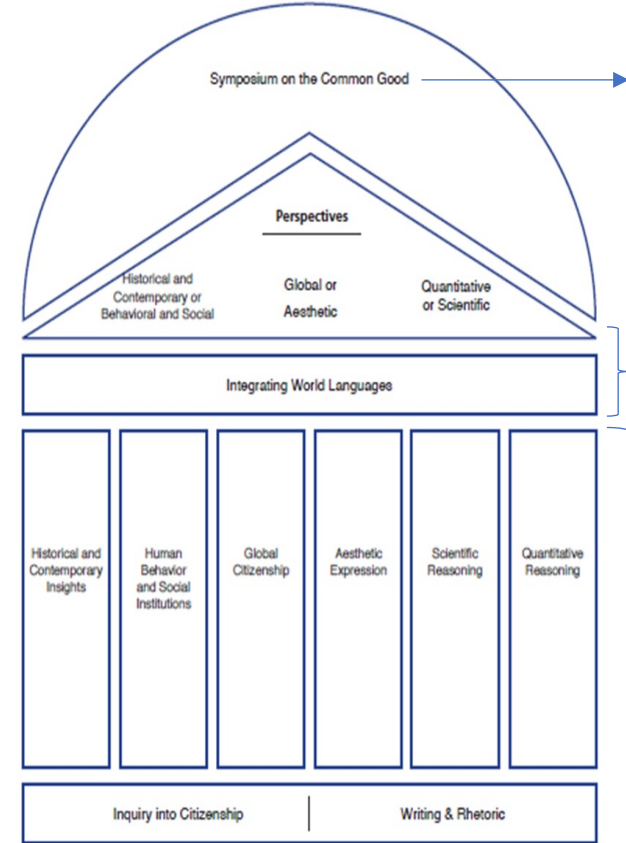


1980s

Mission Statement

Longwood University is an institution of higher learning dedicated to the development of citizen leaders who are prepared to make positive contributions to the common good of society. . . .

1997



2018



Institutional Level Reflection

- How and/or where does your institution “define” civic learning and engagement and the goals? (e.g. mission? strategic priorities, or is a comprehensive definition missing or incomplete?)
- Where is CE&L “housed” and/or who is responsible for implementation?
- Where do you see gaps or opportunities?



Institutional Level Reflection

At your table, on the giant post-it:

What would you communicate to decision makers about:

- What you have learned or observed along the way.
- What tips/strategies would you offer to make your professional life (and theirs) easier?



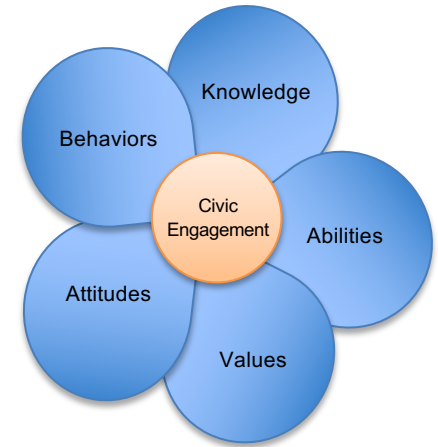
Program Level: Learning Experiences

- List (or add to your list) programs/opportunities. Choose one.
 - signature program
 - one that you feel most proud of and want to share
 - one that needs the most work, but you don't want to give up on it just yet
- How might you categorize your program?
 - Community engagement
 - Political engagement
 - Other?

Program Level Reflection: Learning Experiences

- What do you want your students to know and do and learn? Value?
- When they are engaged in the program, what do expect them to do to demonstrate their learning?
- How do you get them there? What teaching and learning activities help them fertilize the flower?

- What have you learned along the way?
- What have you learned or observed along the way?
- What tips/strategies would you offer?





Program Level Reflection: Learning Experiences

- Categorize the tips and strategies by political engagement, community engagement, and other (as needed)
- Post on wall
- Gallery walk
 - Use post-its to comment and add to discussion

Day of Dialogue Solutions Room

What are the Challenges and Opportunities in
Assessing Civic Engagement and Student Learning?

June 2023

Setting the Stage

- Part 1 – Think about & write an issue statement
(3 minutes total)
- Part 2 – Round robin solutions **(3 minutes per issue)**
- Part 3 – Consume feedback quietly **(3 minutes total)**
- Part 4 – Seek clarification on solutions from peers
(3 minutes per person)
- Part 5 – Open discussion & reflection **(until 1:25pm)**

Alas, first there are rules...

Five ground rules

- Rule 1 – be present, no email, no phone, no laptop
- Rule 2 – be positive, good energy
- Rule 3 – be honest, to increase value of exercise
- Rule 4 – be thoughtful, to use your powerful brains
- Rule 5 – be considerate, of others ideas and suggestions

Part 1 – Create an issue statement

- Challenges and opportunities with civic engagement?
- What measurement issues are you consistently facing?
- How do you know students are learning?
- What is success in Civic Engagement?



**3
minutes
remain**

Part 2 – Round Robin Solutions

- What solutions/ideas might you suggest?
- Any good ideas or experience with similar issues?
- How to resolve or consider other approaches?



**3
minutes
remain**

Part 3 – Quiet Solutions Consumption

- What suggestions are helpful?
- Is there anything new you've not already considered/tried?
- Are any solutions/ideas (im)practical?



**3
minutes
remain**

Part 4 – Solutions Clarification

- What solutions/ideas require clarification, if any?
- How useful, practical are suggestions?
- Anything not understood?



**3
minutes
remain**

Part 5 – Open Discussion & Reflection

- What worked with this exercise?
- What did not work so well?
- How could this be improved?
- Will you take away anything useful?

Break

Fostering Student Engagement

SCHEV Day of Dialogue 2023

Warm Up Activity: Interactive Poll



#dod23

Question 1: List the three most important issues facing your local region/community

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Warm Up Activity: Interactive Poll



#dod23

Question 2: Which topic listed below BEST aligns with your service experiences (select one)

- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Education and youth development
- Environmental sustainability
- Health
- Human service

Warm Up Activity: Interactive Poll



#dod23

In this section you will consider possible approaches to explore the topic area you selected

- Policy and Governance

Warm Up Activity: Interactive Poll



#dod23

Policy and Governance: Participating in political processes, policymaking, and public governance

How much experience do you have in this pathway?

- None
- Very little
- Some
- A lot

How much interest do you have in exploring this pathway?

- None
- Very little
- Some
- A lot

How much impact do you think you personally could have through this pathway?

- None
- Very little
- Some
- A lot

In general, how much impact do you think this pathway has on social issues?

- None
- Very Little
- Some
- A lot

Pathways to Public Service and Civic Engagement

“The Pathways of Public Service and Civic Engagement describe a range of possibilities by which we can make a contribution to the common good.”

PATHWAYS of Public Service & Civic Engagement

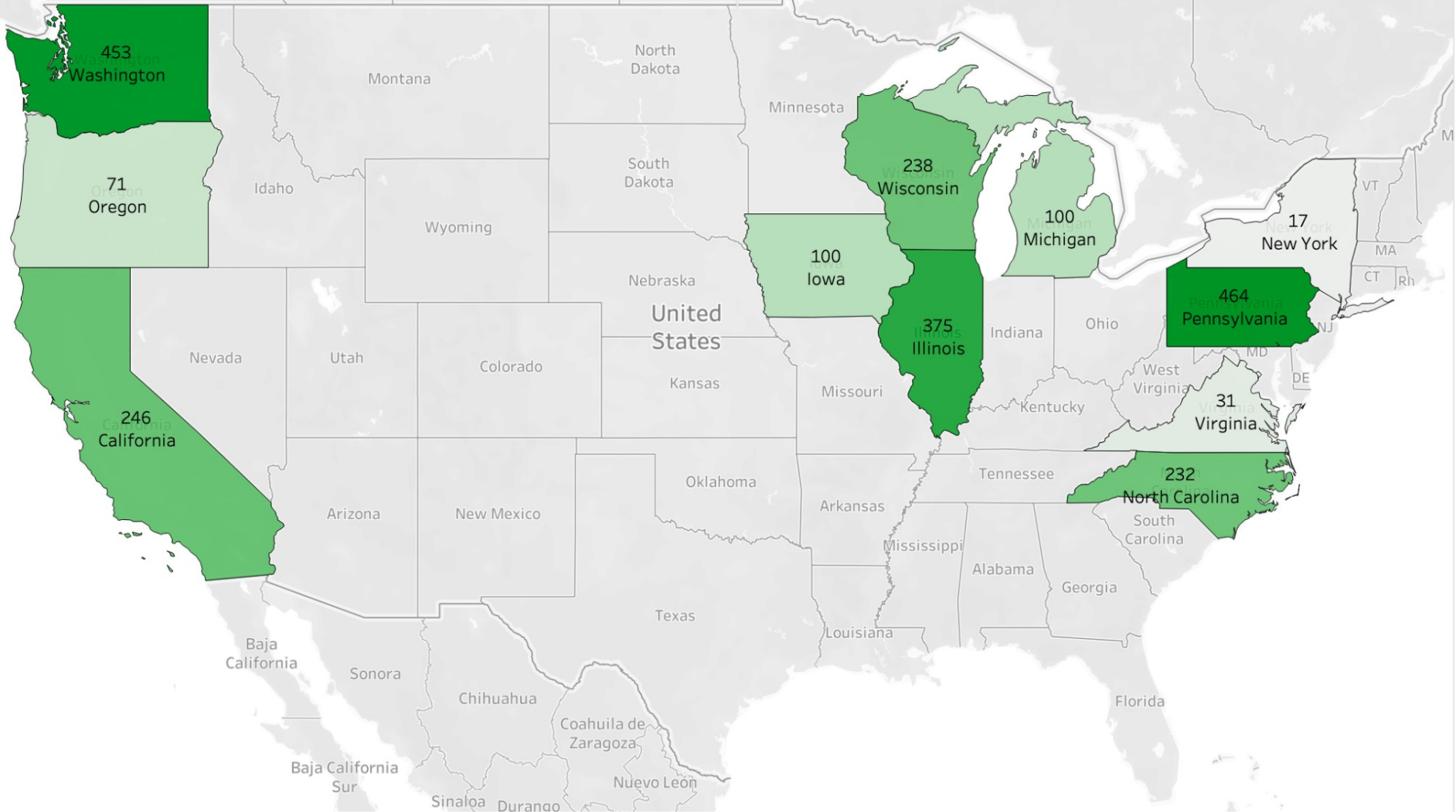


The Pathways of Public Service describe a range of possibilities by which we can make a contribution to the common good. These pathways intersect and overlap, demonstrating the interdependent nature inherent in working toward the common good. There is no one single path and people move in and out of these pathways over time.

[CLICK HERE TO DISCOVER YOUR PATHWAY TODAY](#)

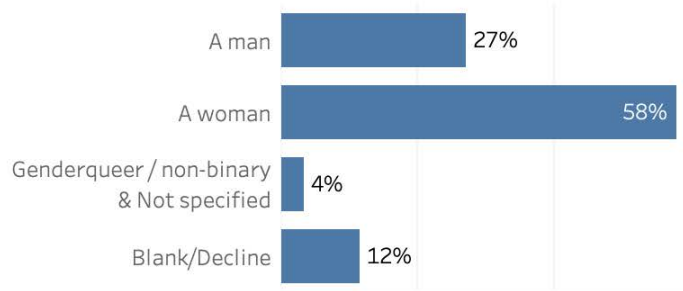
2021- 2022 Pathways National Data

What do we know about student engagement aggregated at the national level?

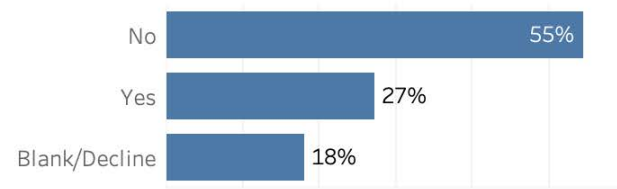


Respondent Demographics (N=2,652)

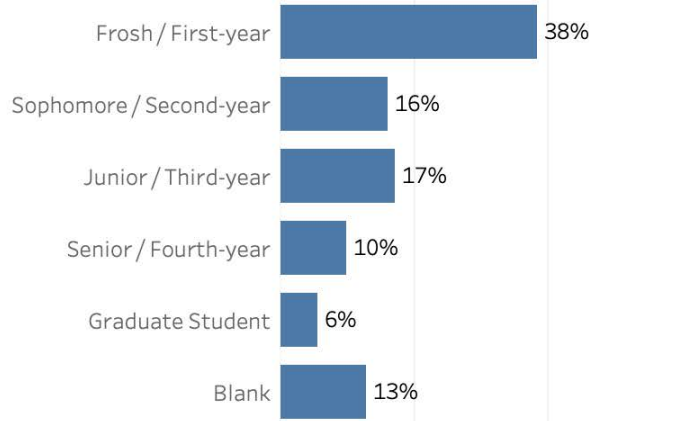
Gender



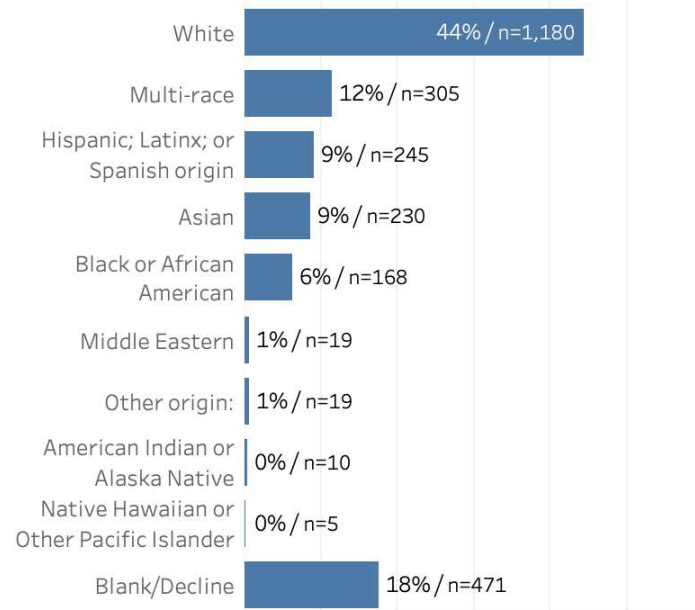
First Generation















Year



Race/Ethnicity



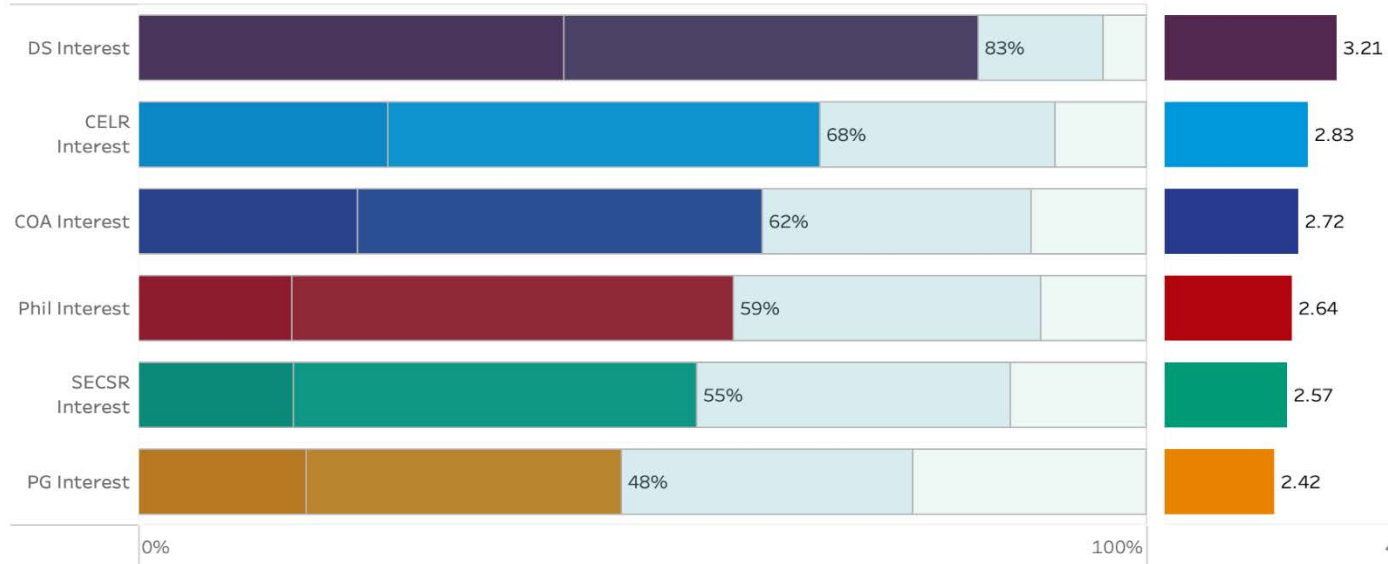
Example Activities with Pathways (selections=12,501, by n=2,652)

Volunteer your time to help on a local project you care about	DS		77% n=2,036
Gather supplies to help a population you care about	DS		61% n=1,622
Donate to a charity drive that benefits a population you care about	Phil		55% n=1,458
Sell items and donate a portion of your profits to support a cause you care about	SECSR		43% n=1,132
Participate in a walkathon for an issue you care about and get local companies to sponsor you	Phil		41% n=1,095
Attend or organize a political debate, forum, or town hall	PG		33% n=880
Organize your peers through social media to participate in a march to support an issue you care about	COA		31% n=826
Write an editorial about an issue you care about	COA		29% n=782
Survey neighborhood residents regarding the effects of an issue you care about	CELR		28% n=731
Serve on a student government association	PG		26% n=679
Review the literature on best practices to create a policy brief for an organization	CELR		24% n=641
Work with a tech company to design a mobile app that helps a population you care about	SECSR		23% n=619

How much interest do you have in exploring this pathway during college?

Interest, Pathways Responses: "A Lot" & "Some" (n=2652)

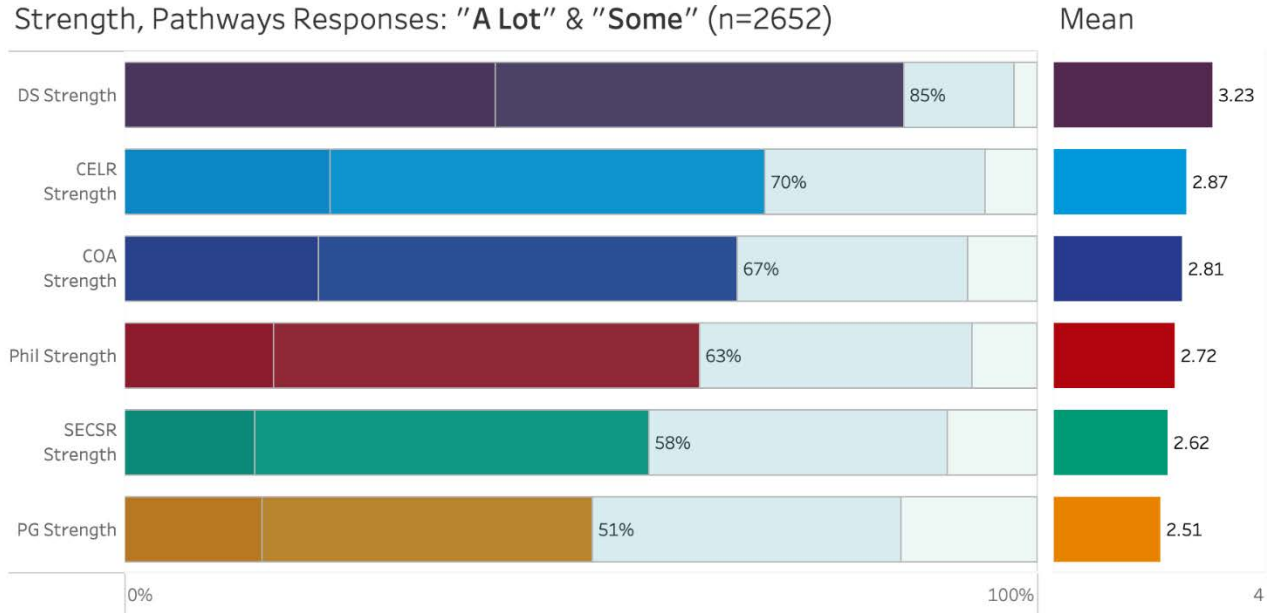
Mean



Pathways Dimensions

- Experience
- Impact
- Interest
- Strength

Considering your current strengths, how much impact do you think you personally could have through this pathway?



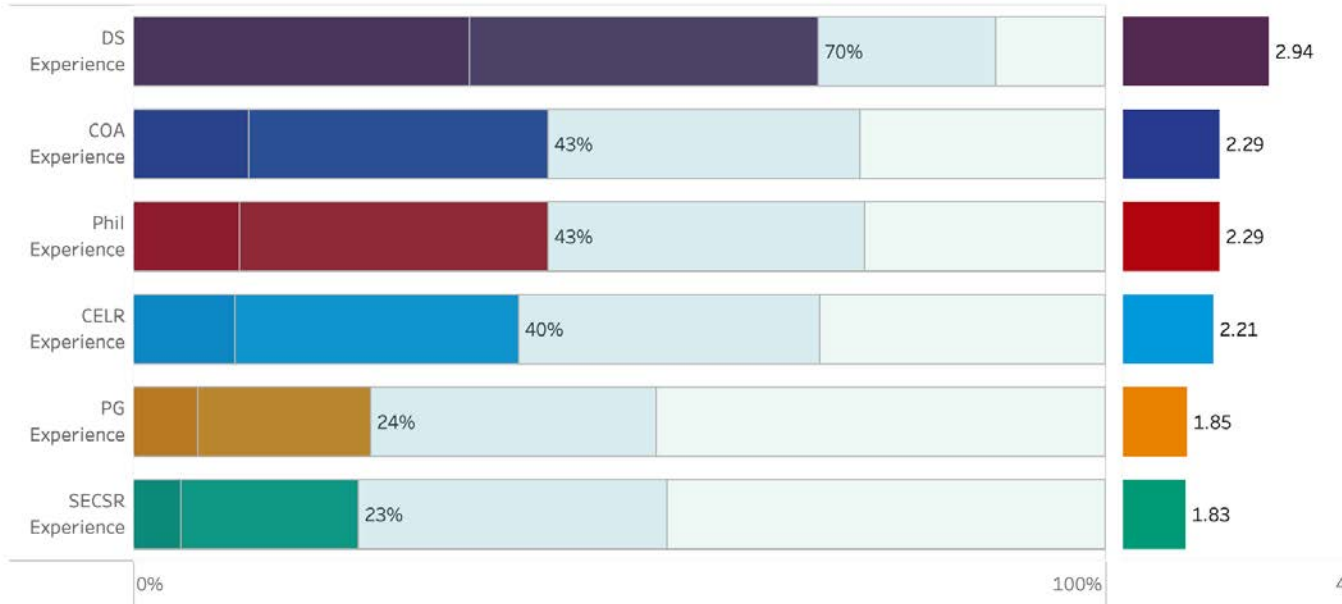
Pathways Dimensions

- Experience
- Impact
- Interest
- Strength

How much experience do you have in this pathway?

Experience, Pathways Responses: "A Lot" & "Some" (n=2652)

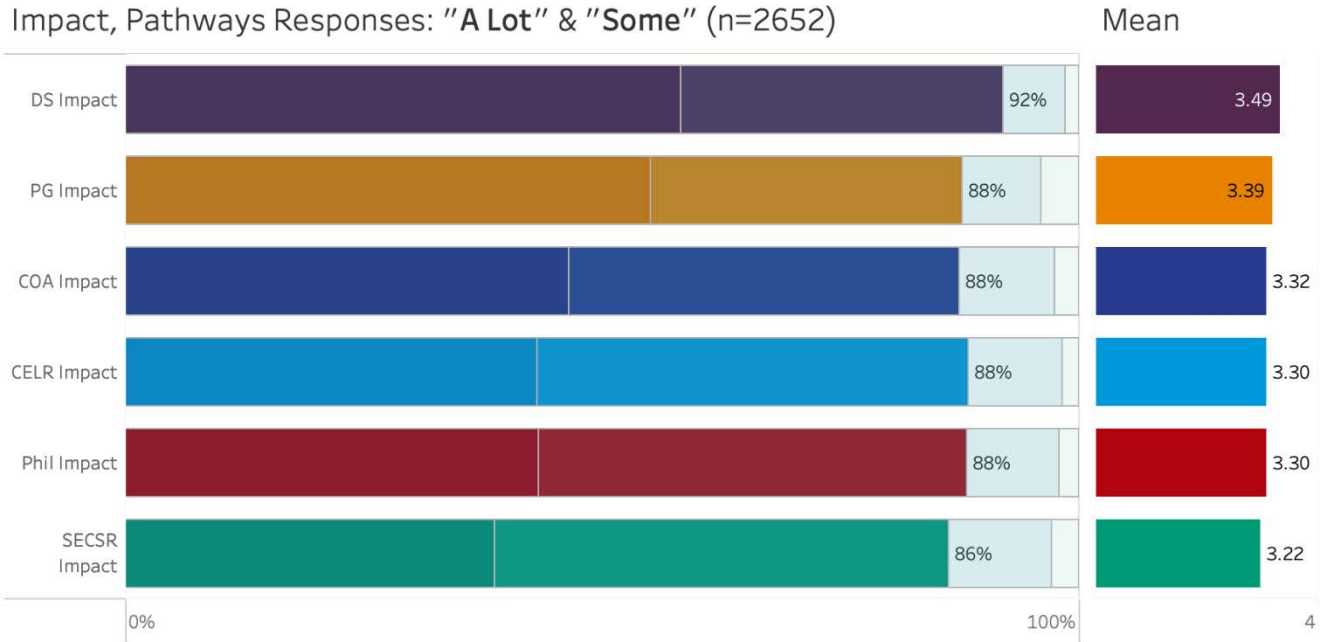
Mean



Pathways Dimensions

- Experience
- Impact
- Interest
- Strength

In general, how much impact do you think this pathway has on social issues?



Pathways Dimensions

- Experience
- Impact
- Interest
- Strength



Data: Let's React! How can this national data inform and inspire us?

Tables 1-3



Pathways and Practices How can thinking about pathways (i.e., various modes of civic engagement) advance your practices as an individual or institution?

Tables 4-6



Measuring Student Interest and Investment How do you/can you hear from students about their interests and meaning-making re: engagement (and how do you share it with others)?

Tables 7-9



Navigating Tension and Power What happens where there is misalignment between state and/or institutional policies and student interest? How do you respond?

Tables 10-12

Round One



#dod23

What questions or content from your discussion could generate future dialogue or guide later data collection?

Round Two



#dod23

What questions or content from your discussion could generate future dialogue or guide later data collection?

*Thank you for coming and
safe travels home!*