

**9/14 Community Forum  
Focused Conversation  
Compiled Responses**

1. **Name some examples of how Boise State students and faculty are currently engaged in the community.**
  - Internships
  - Service-learning
  - Teacher Education field experiences
  - Coordination and planning of community events
  - Adjunct faculty
  - Internships
  - Service-learning
  - Outreach to promote science and engineering
  - Jason project
  - Economics
  - Science Day – bring in HS teachers and counselors to meet with science faculty
  - Foodbank – 50 BSU students in service-learning (10 hr. commitment and intense experience)
  - Interns for foster care support
  - Nursing students used to support migrant workers – evolved into a bigger project from a small start
  - Kinesiology students involved in nutrition
  - Service-learning/interns have in some cases become fulltime employees
  - Hope to partner with MLL to assist with non-English speakers
  - Social work students involved from other schools
  - Social work students internship placement in Health & Welfare and St. Al's
  - Students involved in demonstrations in a variety of issues (social, health, and human rights issues)
  - Community forums – political issues
  - Nursing students community internships
  - Student clubs doing community service projects
  - Students and faculty have provided assistance with researching community needs
  - Interns in legislature, police dept.
  - Football team brings attention to BSU
  - Faculty on Boards of Directors, staff on community boards
  - Research, strategic planning, market plans
  - Citizen police academy – students go through this program. Students ride along.
  - Identifying social problems, doing surveys in community organizations
  - Pete Latte (professor) has drafted neighborhood plan

- Campus brings speakers and concerts to BSU for the community
- Kathy intern for campaign
- Boys' and Girls' Club and Nursing students (leadership students)
- Highly connected with both Garden City and Meridian Boys' and Girls' Clubs
- Computers for kids: Boise State donates computers to be refurbished and given to needy students
- Senior nursing students – friendship clinic – community assessment – business students helped with business plan
- Dental assistant program – x-rays of teeth for impoverished kids and adults
- ASBSU student lobbyists during legislative session, advocacy

**2. Name some examples of current mutually beneficial partnerships between the campus and community**

- Social work, teacher prep
- Jason project
- Performing arts
- Ada county working with College of Engineering faculty to capture and use landfill gases
- Mayor candidates used BSU Student Union
- Nursing/Canyon County farm workers
- Staff/faculty
- BSU/City Police partnership
- Transition Team (City/BSU)
- Rake-up Boise, River Clean Up
- Trio project and federal \$\$ for internships to create collaborative initiatives with kids and technology
- IACI – week long (Idaho Business Week) since 1978 where kids learn business skills
- Interns working with Idaho legislators

**3. Where do you see a need to develop mutually beneficial partnerships between the campus and community?**

- The role of county government
- Lack of civic understanding
- Need to involve public school students (outreach)
- Health care, separation of church and state, and other issues need to be discussed outside a political context
- Student groups/forums
- Huge opportunity for local government to use campus expertise to help them

- Smaller non-profits don't know about opportunities in working with the university
- Outreach to prisons – many health programs (nursing, radiology, criminal justice, psychology)
- Outreach to schools with high numbers of ESL children
- Community organization and development is part of job duties of regional directors at Health and Welfare – identify 1 or 2 social policy issues – specific internships and involvement from faculty – assisting in this, focus partnering with Neighborhood Associations.
- Faculty and students involved in community organizations
- New Terry Riley clinic with Nursing
- People needed on community boards
- More “rake up Boise” type volunteer opportunities
- It takes time for agencies to take in students
- Students involved in teaching citizenship classes
- Use university resources to help immigrants
- All colleges have student lobbyists, but they are gone after each session and new students come on: need consistency and sustained over time – too fragmented as it is now
- Helping with literacy programs early in child's life
- Spending too much on Medicaid and prisons/corrections
- Have Boise State students mentor younger students (e.g. Boys' and Girls' Club)

**4. What's your reaction to the concept of renewing Boise State's commitment to civic engagement?**

- It's about time
- Prime location and opportunity to connect to greater issues/national concerns
- BSU is doing a lot, but we need to bring the importance of civic engagement to the attention of students
- Focus has been on outcomes assessment; would be happy to see more emphasis on community responsibility.
- Corporate sponsorships have often been focused on fiscal needs.
- Focus on “what's your role as a citizen.”
- What BSU overlooks is to give their students real life experience as a part of their education
- BSU has many non-traditional students who come from life experiences
- My view is “that a university is what civic engagement is all about; that's why I went to a university.”
- Potential for aligning faculty's research agendas to community needs (hunger, housing)

- Excited about getting students more connected to community and their rights and responsibilities as citizens
- Excited about opportunity to engage “younger” voters
- Marvelous
- Timely – new BSU president, new Mayor, there is renewed energy
- It’s needed: 15% voters in primary election came out/it’s absurd
- BSU is an important player
- Citizen fostering (including civic responsibilities) has been missing. Every community needs energy of civic engagement
- We as citizens born in the US should take a citizenship test
- Excellent
- Exciting
- We need to focus our initiatives and provide the resources to make things happen
- If 20% of Boise State students got involved we’d have 1700 students “engaged”

**5. What do you like best about the notion?**

- Exposing the campus to the issues impacting the community/valley
- Hope that this can translate to the goals of improving citizenship and cause them to demand more from their elected officials
- There is so much opportunity
- Students had a noisy demonstration in front of the statehouse – it’s good to get the statehouse aware that there are many viewpoints
- Creating meaningful partnerships

**6. What questions or doubts do you have?**

- How to package the issues and attract interest – moving beyond civic engagement defined as voting
- Defining “the common good”
- Need to evaluate power structure
- Do we need childcare, transportation, etc. to get people involved
- People are focused on how to get food on the table
- People most affected need to be involved in the process
- It’s tough to stand up and say the hard/right thing
- Need to focus on democratic/public goals rather than corporate goals
- People are cynical about civic engagement “a tough challenge”
- “as a BSU graduate I was not involved in civic opportunities because university did not really get information to me about things I could do”
- Challenge – as a public institution it cannot get involved often times – needs to remain neutral, so students have to operate individually if they want to engage in criticizing the status quo.

- “civic engagement is not voluntary activities only but also getting in social change agendas”
- How to effectively get students involved
- Can we find ways to reward community involvement and service – for the university and for community agencies
- Need to involve faculty in all disciplines to encourage and model civic engagement
- Idaho is extremely conservative
- Don’t want to upset the balance of civic engagement and academic rigor
- Having interns can take a lot of time from community members
- This civic engagement movement needs consistency – one leader, one department (where is the entry port?)
- So many students have multiple commitments
- We need to do better, there are very real issues to address
- This group needs to realize how political involvement and service (e.g. volunteerism) need to [work] hand in hand
- Move volunteerism to the next level
- Lack of consistency among student activists
- Student mentoring to create consistency (seniors mentor younger students and engage HS kids and kids at risk)

**7. Describe your ideal vision of what it looks like when Boise State students are engaged in the community. What are they doing on campus and in the community?**

- Conversation extending to “drive by” education
- The sharing of issues and ideas
- Promoting intellectual vitality
- Engaging in the public sphere of public policy
- Students involved in social programs (H&W) and service organizations
- Involvement with the arts
- Preparing papers/issue statements on community issues
- Civic engagement integrated between classroom and community
- Students/faculty lobbying
- Discourse is healthy for a university
- Consistent and continuing student lobbying effort
- Students working with major public agencies around major policy issues
- Internships and other outreach efforts (S-L volunteering)
- Students see some personal benefit to these efforts – employment opportunities, networking, recognition, etc.
- Visibility in media of what students are doing in the community
- Community groups getting students to attend their meetings
- Students would serve as mentors (grad to undergrad, undergrad to HS, etc)
- Community agencies think “It’s September, it’s time to my intern.”

- Community agencies will be able to budget their time
- Integrating classroom with community
- Students feel empowered to speak their voice
- Students make their points and engage in discourse without becoming uncivil
- Students are well informed and know the elements of effective civic engagement
- Students would graduate only after taking coursework and/or actively engaging in the community
- Integrate S-L with emphasis on civic engagement throughout each discipline
- Provide academic credit for coursework related to civic engagement or involvement in student government

**8. Describe your ideal vision of what it looks like when Boise State faculty and staff are engaged in the community. What are they doing on campus and in the community?**

- Scholarship directed toward civic engagement
- Working as partners with community
- Encouraging students
- Need more targeted forums on public/urban issues
- Basic research on environmental issues, social issues
- What about a 1 credit class that requires students to be engaged in political parties, clubs, or civic engagement opportunities – problem with this is that our students are overwhelmed by outside pressures (job, family)
- Faculty sharing expertise with agencies and staff (similar to College of Health Sciences assisting with implementation of CHIP program)
- Make it easier to connect faculty with the areas of need - some clearing house or central person to assist community agencies in connecting with faculty
- That faculty would be glad to do it
- Faculty don't compartmentalize their work in teaching, service, research; the ideal would be faculty blur these. Reward systems have to reflect this.
- BSU moves away from being an island.
- Venue for faculty scholarship and engaging in the community themselves
- We need to engage faculty

**9. What would be the impact on the community if Boise State follows through on its Civic Engagement initiative?**

- An educated vitality
- More civic leaders like Elaine Clegg, Jade Riley (BSU graduates)
- Does the community group have the infrastructure that will align with the BSU efforts – a staff person? Otherwise, we will have a “shotgun”

approach that is not well coordinated. If we get involved with small non-profits who currently don't have BSU involvement, we can make a significant impact on the community – we need to get the word out with these.

- We would have better informed, better trained workforce and citizens
- Engaged students become engaged community members
- Engaged citizens would base decisions on knowledge – based on experience –rather than assumptions and prejudice
- All people from all age groups etc. will be very involved

**10. What are the pitfalls we should consider as we develop the initiative?**

- “Managing’ the information – relying upon canned media to develop the “depth” of issues. Invite the media to this process.
- Faculty need recognition and reward for civic engagement as a scholarly activity, not just research
- We’re a conservative state
- Faculty have been discouraged from lobbying (university often wants a single voice around key issues and not dilute our message)
- Hate mail sometimes the result when faculty speak up
- Conservative legislature makes it challenging
- Be realistic in prioritizing (lack of time is real)
- Students and staff fear retribution
- Set expectation high then fall short (it could revert back to just getting students to vote)
- There has to be resources dedicated to this. It has to be formalized; there has to be some mechanism to translate ideas (BSU structure)
- What is displayed by the leadership?
- The processes to get interns are cumbersome
- We may encourage student voting and civic engagement, but how do we engage all age groups?
- Students too focused on their own discipline
- Kids afraid to “do conflict” so how do we encourage discourse in this type of environment?
- How can we motivate students to citizenry during these difficult times?

**11. What are the indicators that signal to you that the initiative is being implemented?**

- a marketing campaign
- faculty scholarship
- BSU students involved in all campus committees
- Reported in the news
- Campus wide commitment to educate faculty, staff, and students
- Indications of more tolerance of others

- Engagement of citizens in community
- Forum attendance
- Faculty evaluations – faculty civic involvement
- TVTV – Bob Lithy (BSU) student forums
- Track student voting. Can use it to take issues to constituents
- Track issues of interest to students and engage them on these issues.
- Getting calls from politicians asking “What the heck is going on over there?” (challenging the status quo)
- Voter turnout would increase for local elections
- List of current engagements
- This meeting
- A mechanism that allows and supports faculty and agencies to connect
- A clearinghouse – a central place to document request – website that says “This is how you do it.”
- People at all levels of the organization can respond
- Dr. Kustra has been very involved and visible in the community (radio show)
- Higher voter turnout
- Involvement in healthcare initiatives
- More interaction with faculty and business community
- Greater number of community organizations partnering with Boise State
- Greater engagement with the political process
- More vocal constituency to legislative process

**12. What message about Boise State’s civic engagement initiative will go back to those you represent?**

- That it hasn’t been fully defined with a stated goal: What’s the vision? What are the goals, objectives and projected outcomes?
- It holds a lot of promise
- Has an identified point of contact
- Agencies need to reach back to Boise State
- The time is excellent to talk with BSU about partnerships
- I will start thinking about service-learning/internships in all my activities (social, faith based); civic engagement is not always in public affairs only
- At least now I have a point of contact at BSU to talk with
- I’ll take back idea that we get past the bureaucracy of the university
- Two-way street to bring community experts to the university as adjuncts and guest speakers to classes
- Can we have more info on BSU involvement in civic engagement – Web site
- Need better method to reach students they want to involve - in a focus group

- Key faculty, VP and student leaders talking about civic engagement and getting involved
- There is a commitment; there is an opportunity to stretch our dollars (community agency)
- Boise State needs to be more vocal about what we do (e.g. grants projects, research)
- Ambassadors for change
- Boise State as a clearinghouse for resources
- Civic engagement goes beyond “just voting”
- Remember “politics” is not a dirty word: Politics is how a free society governs itself
- Civic engagement must be connected to the political process

**13. How can you, those you represent, and community members at large actively partner in this initiative?**

- Allow students to vote on campus to get past the absentee voting problems for students
- May be some financial assistance through grants and scholarship opportunities
- Initiate more networking opportunities with students
- Need to help students see beyond the value of volunteering to help them see the issue of social justice, or injustice, behind the issues
- That BSU is interested and the agencies need to reach back to connect
- Boise State students attend civic clubs, city council, legislative sessions
- We need youth involvement in all civic activities and organizations