

**Student Forum on Civic Engagement
 Focused Conversation Compiled Responses
 Nov. 4, 2004**

Twenty students gathered on November 4, 2004, to exchange ideas and experiences about what it means to be involved in the community as a student at Boise State. A student-led presentation on the American Democracy Project and Boise State's own civic engagement initiatives was followed by student-facilitated small group conversations in which the following questions were asked. Compiled responses follow each of the six questions.

1. Describe some examples of how Boise State students are currently engaged in the community.

- Coach youth sports – non-profits, T-ball
- Volunteer Services Board – food bank, March of Dimes, community awareness
- March of Dimes – mailed out thank you notes
- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Taco Bell Arena – marketing booths
- (???) Homemakers – clients
- Health Fairs for class
- Scoliosis screenings and vision
- Puberty and (???) ETOH teaching at schools
- Food drives/clothes drives
- BSU Football – public service announcements
- Soup kitchen
- Student government – work with Mayor Bieter, include BSU in community decisions. Boise City working group initially had no student representatives; lobbyist at State House to increase funds
- Service-learning
- Big community events
- Sororities/fraternities
- Student volunteers at American Red Cross
- 80 committees work with student/BSU issues
- Classes – encourage; extra credit
- We vote
- Military students
- SADD chapter at Centennial High
- Volunteer Services Board – 220 students at Service Saturdays
- Interacting as part of internships, being an ambassador
- It's a lifestyle thing
- It's hard to get involved due to other commitments

2. What have you observed when you have participated in a community service project?

- Two kinds of people: those who get involved because they have a genuine interest; those who are required by their organizations to do community service
- We need to use a “stick” to get some students involved: the exposure they get is good

- Things get “dirty” – Paint the Town
- Habitat for Humanity
- People high spirited, motivated
- Few volunteers get you motivated
- Not enough students participating; same group of students give
- Some rough spots, bumps
- Amazing to see how many are willing to do something
- “people come to me to help – not me ask them”
- Endorphin rush/high from volunteer experience
- Bigger turn-out and more fun events
- Open eyes to where you can serve
- Short but recurrent events for civic engagement
- I think they have more to gain than we do
- The children have more to gain than those providing the service; however there is still that learning component. Very beneficial.
- I think the community is open – the community is really responsive to the service-learning efforts
- There is such a huge need for what we do
- Some cannot participate – don’t have a car
- Good group – it was fun
- Internal feelings
- People care when they get educated – hand out flyers
- Mary Robinson lecture - people pumped up after lecture
- Sign petitions – need more info at IPSA table
- Motivation – people really care about the issue
- Students glad to have her campus
- Faculty senate meeting
- VSP Service Saturday – don’t always start at 9am and always on Saturdays – vary day and dates

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

- Important to have – commuter school – not much community here between student body
- Don’t have time/not involved/not informed
- Not real social campus – encourage this type of activity – not warm – but not intentional – willingness of people – community on campus does not reach out – encourage
- Wish there were more opportunities – not advertised and promoted
- How does it affect me – need direct connection
- Deal with basic human needs – food, warm
- Attach – how does it affect you
- I never really correlated civic engagement with Boise State, but look at it more as departmental
- Homecoming involvement? Hard to meet needs.
- There’s a lot of good intentions
- Communication? Motivation? Time? Other Commitments?

- How would you see nursing becoming more integrated at BSU? Do service-learning on campus – involve students (i.e. STD screenings, etc.)
- Service-learning pushed too late in school
- Targeting entire student body is unrealistic, cumbersome, expensive
- Target trend setters
- To teach a younger student is important – mentor
- Bronco for life
- Not all faculty for engagement
- Positive approaches/challenge better than negative
- Seems to be a desire to get more students engaged; but it's very hard to find the time
- More engagement as a student produces higher quality citizens
- What is the focus – on-campus involvement or outside the campus?

4. What would be the impact if Boise State students and the community increase our mutually beneficial partnerships?

- More contributions to scholarship funds and support for BSU programs
- More connections made – a stronger feeling of belonging
- Students get a clearer sense of purpose
- Distinguished Lecture Series – example of benefit to community
- Meet community needs while getting real-world experience
- Get respectable funding; get respect for
- Lot of benefits
- “growth” in younger population
- Job opportunities increase
- Additional funding
- University highly recognized will bring in more students, faculty
- Community see more benefits: better living conditions for elderly
- Students more proud; give more back
- Community businesses and students benefit each other
- Integration across campus – community?
- Community that feels connected with the younger generation
- Large population of underserved would get more help/recognition, access to services
- See more of an advocate role
- See more prioritization

5. How should we get the word out about civic engagement at Boise State?

- Marking booth (???)
- More enthusiasm on campus – need to look for it, it will not find you
- Make people want to help
- Teachers give extra credit to volunteer
- First experience go well
- Cancel class to go vote/bribing people works
- Word of mouth – from peers – friends and buddies, student leaders

- Student involvement guide book
- Live in dorms
- Send out via Student Update emails
- Posters on campus
- Commercials – show programs out in the community
- Booths/tables set up with flyers and free stuff (like pizza and soda!)
- Show more valuable for civic engagement than just another night out
- Get college students to get younger students involved
- College teach 6th and 6th graders teach 1st
- High school participation for extra credit
- Not sure we can get/reach BSU students
- “teaching old dogs new tricks – not done”
- Start smaller first then build up; if too broad, will not pay attention
- Target entire BSU students – force through extra credit
- Needs to be grassroots effort: student to student, individual to individual
- Incorporate civic engagement into activities with friends
- Don’t call it civic engagement
- You have to be motivated: what would it take for YOU to be involved?
- Let people know how to get involved
- Faculty and staff need to know more about opportunities; faculty are key
- start before college – younger students
- make it part of the culture
- TV in SUB
- Archway in Quad – have to walk under it - new idea
- Banner (???)

6. **How will you participate?**

- Keep on getting involved in campus/community activities
- Senior project for Nursing
- Depends on what’s offered
- Not a lot of opportunity – only required
- Feel obligation to give extra
- How much is out there
- Places that need help – don’t have funds to advertise
- Readily available
- part of normal routine is easier to do
- donate to science
- give blood
- angel tree
- student government involved
- church involvement
- know your neighbor
- how to have passion – component to it; otherwise, you won’t put in all efforts
- we’re already required to do service-learning, so additional engagement in the community is asking a lot of time
- take a service-learning class

- James Buchanan – economist lecture
- Where ever my friend takes me
- Traditional Thanksgiving dinner – ISA
- MLK committee