

# Raising the Bar:

## The Florida College System and the Civics Literacy Gap

Oct. 29-30, 2015

### Best Practices shared during “*Idea Fest*”

- **Dr. Leven Wilson, Pasco-Hernando State College**
  - **Title:** *Track a Bill Project:* Require every student to research one bill (in Congress or Legislature not specified) on any subject, and write a paper or make verbal presentation on it.
  - Source: Dr. Wilson, [wilsonc@phsc.edu](mailto:wilsonc@phsc.edu)
- **Dr. Whitcomb, Polk State College**
  - **Title:** *On-Campus Rain Garden/Community-Based Science Project:* Faculty created a rain garden to teach water production and conservation. Students meet with Winter Haven Water Department staff to learn about preservation on a micro and macro scale.
  - **Title:** *Community Garden:* Students taught an underserved community to create, grow and harvest healthy food in a community garden. Each community member could take whatever is needed, and participation in maintaining the garden is encouraged but not guilt-associated. Students learned how to open a conversation and trust from a community and how to create it within a community (presumably Polk State, though not specified)
- **Dr. David Tegeder, Santa Fe College**
  - **Title:** *Oral Histories (Veterans):* Meet and interview veterans and write their stories. Provide manuscripts and copy to veterans. For History and Philosophy classes
  - Source: [david.egeder@sfcollge.edu](mailto:david.egeder@sfcollge.edu)
- **Dr. Kim McGinnis, Miami Dade College**
  - **Title:** *Global Health Services/Community Health Clinics:* The Medical Campus participates in 100 +- health fairs and hosts a community health fair that serves 2,000 individuals in the community who don't receive health care any other way. Students also travel to Dominican Republic, Haiti and Immokalee to provide interdisciplinary health screenings for dental, blood pressure, vision, etc. They complete 20,000 of community service hours annually.
  - Source: [kim.mcginis@mdc.edu](mailto:kim.mcginis@mdc.edu)



- **Dr. Tamika Ramos-Robinson, Miami-Dade**
  - **Title:** *STEM and Society*: Reflections to help students connect this science to life issues – usefulness to society.
  - Source: [tramos@mad.edu](mailto:tramos@mad.edu)
- **Dr. Richard Murgo, Tallahassee Community College**
  - Embed service learning in course objectives for political science courses
- **Dr. Emma Humphries, Bob Graham Center for Public Service**
  - **Title:** *Student Policy Summit*: Bring student representatives from each university and college in Florida together to explore and create an action plan around a state policy issue. Or hold an FCS-only version of it.
  - Source: Sheila Dickinson, Assistant Director of Academic Programs, Bob Graham Center at UF
  - Source: [bgc-ufdoctord@ufl.edu](mailto:bgc-ufdoctord@ufl.edu)
- **Dolly Ferraiuolo, Student, St. Petersburg College**
  - **Title:** *Adopt a Tribe*: Every student is required to become part of an organization as a form in internship, learn to work within it, engage with leaders on policy issues, etc.
  - Source: [cmferraiuolo@gmail.com](mailto:cmferraiuolo@gmail.com)
- **Dr. Joseph Smiley and Dr. Tara Newsom, St. Petersburg College**
  - Title: *Institutional Champions*: They are a powerful and necessary force in developing civic leadership. SPC institutionally has embraced the civic movement and is integrating multiple levels of engagement into the SPC experience as a whole.
  - Source: [newsom.tara@spcollege.edu](mailto:newsom.tara@spcollege.edu)
- **Bruce Elliott, SCORE**
  - **Title:** *Case Studies of Successful Student Engagement*: Do a series of case studies where students have been engaged in civic activities, at local, state or regional level. Goal is to create an understanding of what engagement projects work well and how to implement.
  - **Title:** *Blab for Civic Engagement*: Blab is a livestreaming platform that enables a public video chat among four participants at a time on a given issue. Instructor assigns a discussion around a civic engagement issue. Blabs are archived, and students can access the archived videos for their portfolios when applying for jobs, especially within government.
- **Daryl Henderson, Student, St. Petersburg College**
  - **Title:** *Law Fest*: Offer free legal services to students and/or members of the community.
  - Source: [Henderson.Darryl@spcollege.edu](mailto:Henderson.Darryl@spcollege.edu)
- **Unknown Sources:**
  - **Title:** *So You Want to Run for Office*: Students are required to put together a campaign to run



- for public office. They must have a campaign staff, with each person assigned a role. Must produce a campaign speech, a campaign video, and interact with the community, asking for votes and telling why they are running. Required to do a reflection paper before and upon completion.
- **Title:** *Run Tell That!* Students attend a public meeting, then come back with a report on the issues put forth in the meeting and an assessment of what they would do about the issues. Not clear if report is written or oral.

For more resources from the 2015 Civics Literacy Conference, please click [HERE](#).

