

EXPERIENCES WITH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AT TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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PURPOSE

- Discuss civic engagement in the following areas:
 - I. Freshman introductory biology course
 - II. Upper level Restoration Ecology course
 - III. Upper level Program Implementation and Evaluation course
 - IV. “Bulldogs in Action” first-year experience

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

- Highly-selective, public liberal arts and sciences institution
- 48 undergraduate majors, 58 minors, 8 graduate programs and 2 graduate certificate programs
- ~6,000 students



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AT TRUMAN



Organizational Level

- Service Organizations
- Sororities
- Fraternities



Departmental Level

- Biology
- HES
- CMDS
- Nursing
- Agricultural Science
- IDSM



University Level

- Bulldogs in Action
- Civic Engagement Certificate
- Constitution Day
- Big Event

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN BIOLOGY

FRESHMAN BIOLOGY & WATER QUALITY

- **3-year effort integrating state volunteer water quality monitoring program into an introductory biology course**
 - State program provides training, materials, equipment, and supplies
- **Biology Curriculum**
 - 4-week laboratory activity
 - Application of basic chemistry
 - Identification of aquatic macroinvertebrates
 - Influence of abiotic factors on biodiversity
 - Introduction to geomorphology water flow and water chemistry



FRESHMAN BIOLOGY & WATER QUALITY

- **Multiple levels of civic engagement**

- On-campus stream
- Volunteer-based citizen science program
- Submission of collected data to a state agency
- Writing Assignments (student groups)
 - Data Summary
 - Policy Recommendations
 - Letter to City Council
 - Letter to Institution

- **Post-course carry-over**

- Participation in ongoing water quality monitoring projects
- 8 students are now water quality monitoring volunteers
- 2 students have conducted water quality research projects





RESTORATION ECOLOGY: THE EMBODIMENT OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Restoration Ecology...

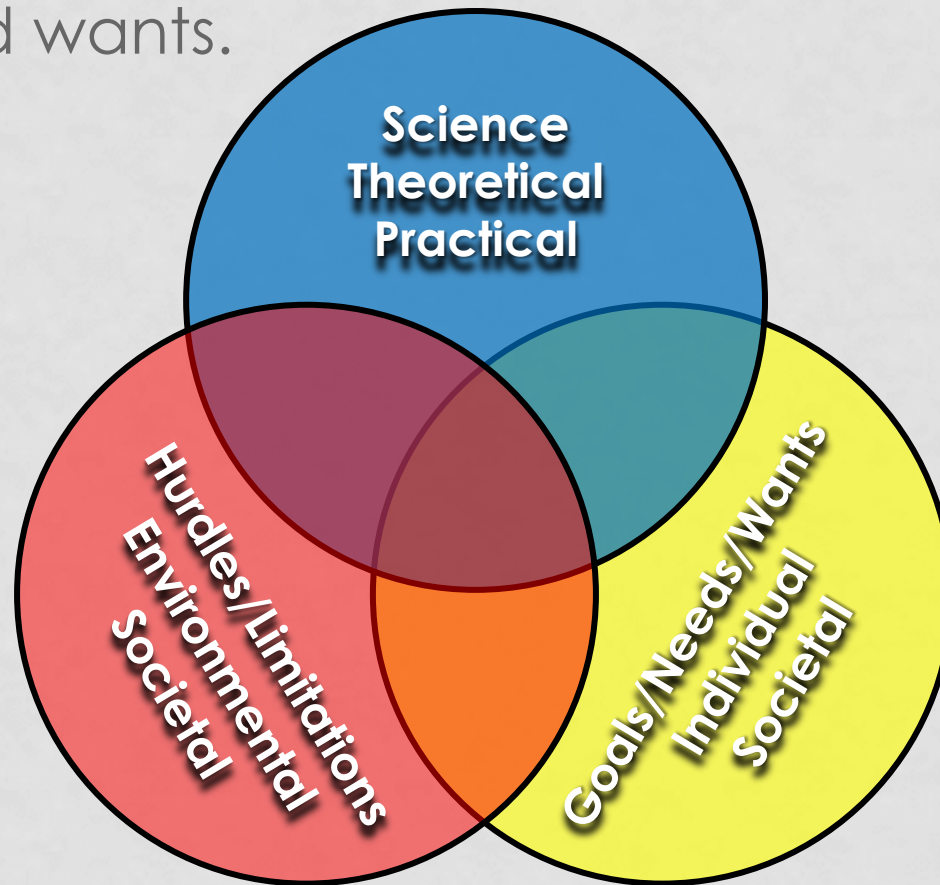
is the scientific study and practice of returning ecosystems and habitats that have degraded, damaged, or destroyed by active human intervention and action to a stable, healthy, and sustainable state.

Problems:

- **Societal Variation in Definitions**
 - degraded, damaged, and destroyed ecosystems
 - stable, healthy, and sustainable

RESTORATION ECOLOGY: THE EMBODIMENT OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Restoration Ecology in practice... is the interface between the science of ecology and societal needs and wants.



RESTORATION ECOLOGY: COURSE ASSIGNMENT

- **Public Debate of Restoration Topic**

Resolved that Truman State University should invest in the restoration of the portion of Bear Creek that passes through campus.

- **Students divided into two teams**

- Assigned during the first week of class with debate scheduled two weeks before the end of the semester.
- Assignment: develop a restoration plan that includes consultation with various stakeholders on campus (President, Provost, Business Office, Physical Plant, Student Senate, Biology Faculty, Student Organizations)

RESTORATION ECOLOGY: OUTCOMES

- **Noteworthy Success:**

- Con arguments identified problem from a different point of view presented alternative solutions

- **Challenges:**

- student buy-in into the project
- failure to identify specific goals and develop a restoration plan that met multiple stakeholder needs
- failure to consult with administrative and faculty stakeholders

- **Questions**

- How do we get and maintain student buy-in?
 - Short-term within the course, and subsequent long-term buy-in beyond course completion

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN HEALTH SCIENCE

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN HEALTH CAPSTONE COURSE

- **Campus/Community project: 30 service learning hours for each student**
- **Group projects are assigned in the prior semester.**
- **Meet with assigned project supervisor**
 - Discuss the entire project
 - Identify tasks needing completion
 - Set future meeting dates
 - Plan project evaluation
- **Record project work in sequential assignments**

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN HEALTH CAPSTONE COURSE

- **HLTH 440 Course Objectives:**
- **Plan, implement, and evaluate health project in community/campus setting**
 - Write measurable objectives and specific action steps to meet project goals
 - Develop program/project timelines, aligned to program goals & objectives
 - Select an appropriate evaluation design
 - Collect and analyze project data
- **Report results**



SAMPLE CAPSTONE PROJECTS



LABEL ME ABLE
 DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK
 3.16-3.20

- 3:16 PEOPLE FIRST PEOPLE FIRST SPEAKER 3:30pm
- 3:17 RESPONDING OTHER 3:17 SITTING VOLLEYBALL 3:30pm
- 3:18 SHOWING UP 1 AM EARLY 3:30pm
- 3:19 INVISIBLE DISABILITY SPEAKER 3:30pm
- 3:26 PUZZLES ON THE QUAD 3:30pm

PRESENTED BY THE HEALTH AND EXERCISE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



WELLNESS ZONE

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

FEB. 14, 2013
 6 & 7 P.M.
 WELLNESS ZONE
 LITTLE THEATER, BH176

A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ON COMMUNICATION AND MAINTAINING A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP
 FREE CONDOMS AND RAPE WHISTLES

SPONSORED BY HEALTH & EXERCISE SCIENCE



FLS FUNDRAISER & PLAYGROUND PROJECT

- **Goal: raise money to upgrade & repair the Faith Lutheran School playground**
 - Create & implement fundraiser
 - Facilitate outdoor work day



FLS FUNDRAISER TO PURCHASE PERMANENT SHADE AWNING

- 140 Faith Lutheran students (K-5) collected spare change over 2 weeks
- Raised: \$2,189.21 for awning



FLS OUTDOOR WORK DAY

- **Tasks for 100 volunteers:**
 - Paint tires, archery net poles, tetherball pole, & 4-square court
 - Shovel sand from sidewalks and wooden structures
 - Install mats under swings & tetherball pole
 - Volunteers also:
 - Washed windows
 - Cleaned carpets and rooms
 - Vacuumed carpets and painted walls



FLS RESULTS

- Average satisfaction rating of volunteers surveyed:
4.47/5.00



ORAL HEALTH PUPPET PROJECT

- Increase oral health knowledge of NEMO area children ages 6 and under
- Presentation: puppet show story, hands-on activities, & discussion



OHA RESULTS

- **413 children reached during 16 presentations**
- **24/24 on all teacher evaluations (highest possible score)**
 - “Very pleased” with presentations
 - All positive comments





BUDDY PACK PROJECT COORDINATORS

- Weekend food packs for low income students
 - Includes cereal, milk, peanut butter, canned goods, and snacks
- Cost = \$180/child for 9-month school year
- Pack for 4 counties' schools each month



How The Kirksville Buddy Bank Works

The map shows Boone County at the bottom with a large blue arrow pointing north to Kirksville. From Kirksville, four blue arrows point to Putnam, Schuyler, Sullivan, and Adair counties. The map also labels Putnam County R-1, Schuyler R-1, Green City, Kirksville Primary, and Roy Miller.

The Food Bank serves 6,500 hungry children every weekend during the school year and we can't do it by ourselves.

We depend on the generosity of people who donate money as well as those who donate their time.

Here's how the process works:

1. People donate \$180 a year so The Food Bank can acquire the food needed to fill the backpacks, which arrives at The Food Bank's warehouse in Columbia.
2. Every month, food needed to feed children in Adair, Sullivan, Putnam and Schuyler Counties is shipped in bulk from Columbia to our Buddy Bank in Kirksville, where local volunteers fill the Buddy Packs.
3. More volunteers from elementary schools in Kirksville, as well as Green City, Putnam County R-1 and Schuyler R-1 bring completed Buddy Packs to their schools.

The logos for The Food Bank and Buddy Pack are located at the bottom right of the page.



PREPPING FOOD AT WAREHOUSE



**ASSEMBLY LINE FOR VOLUNTEERS TO FILL
BUDDY PACKS**

BUDDY PACKS READY FOR 6 SCHOOLS IN 4 COUNTIES



RESULTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- February: 1236 packs – March: 1520 packs – April: 802 packs

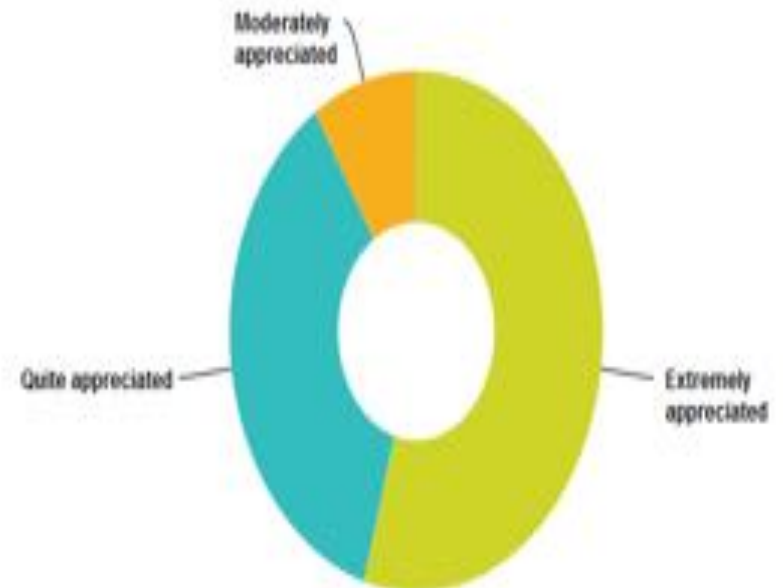
Overall, how satisfied were you with your volunteer experience?

Answered: 11 Skipped: 0



How appreciated did your volunteer supervisor make you feel?

Answered: 11 Skipped: 0



SPRING 2015 CAPSTONE PROJECT RESULTS

- **56 senior students performed over 2,000 service hours in 25 community and campus projects**
- **Applied course knowledge in “real world” settings**
 - Raised money
 - Filled buddy packs
 - Improved playgrounds
 - Taught children health education lessons
 - Peer taught in wellness & health courses
 - Implemented 4 awareness campaigns
 - Conducted sodium education & research



**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT DURING
FRESHMAN WEEK**

BULLDOGS IN ACTION

- **Freshman-only service learning experience**
- **Volunteer basis (n=220)**
- **Sites for service**
 - PACT Center
 - Kirksville Parks and Recreation
 - the Food Bank
 - Buddy Walk
 - Field of Dreams Animal Shelter
 - Faith Lutheran School
 - Rotary Club
 - Rural Advocates for Independent Living (RAIL)
 - First Presbyterian Church
 - the City of Kirksville



BULLDOGS IN ACTION STATISTICS¹

- Freshman surveyed for Truman Week Experience (n = 425)
- 54.8% of freshman participated “Bulldogs in Action”
- Low participation, but a highly valued activity

Activity	Percent Participation	Mean Score
President's Welcome	88.9%	3.77
Ice Cream Social	85.6%	3.28
Convocation	94.1%	3.22
Dodgeball	51.5%	3.61
Movie Night	39.8%	3.25
Truman Lecture	90.4%	2.95
Bulldogs in Action	54.8%	3.78
Dawgfest	48.7%	3.44

1. Statistics obtained from Center for Applied Statistics (CASE), (2014).

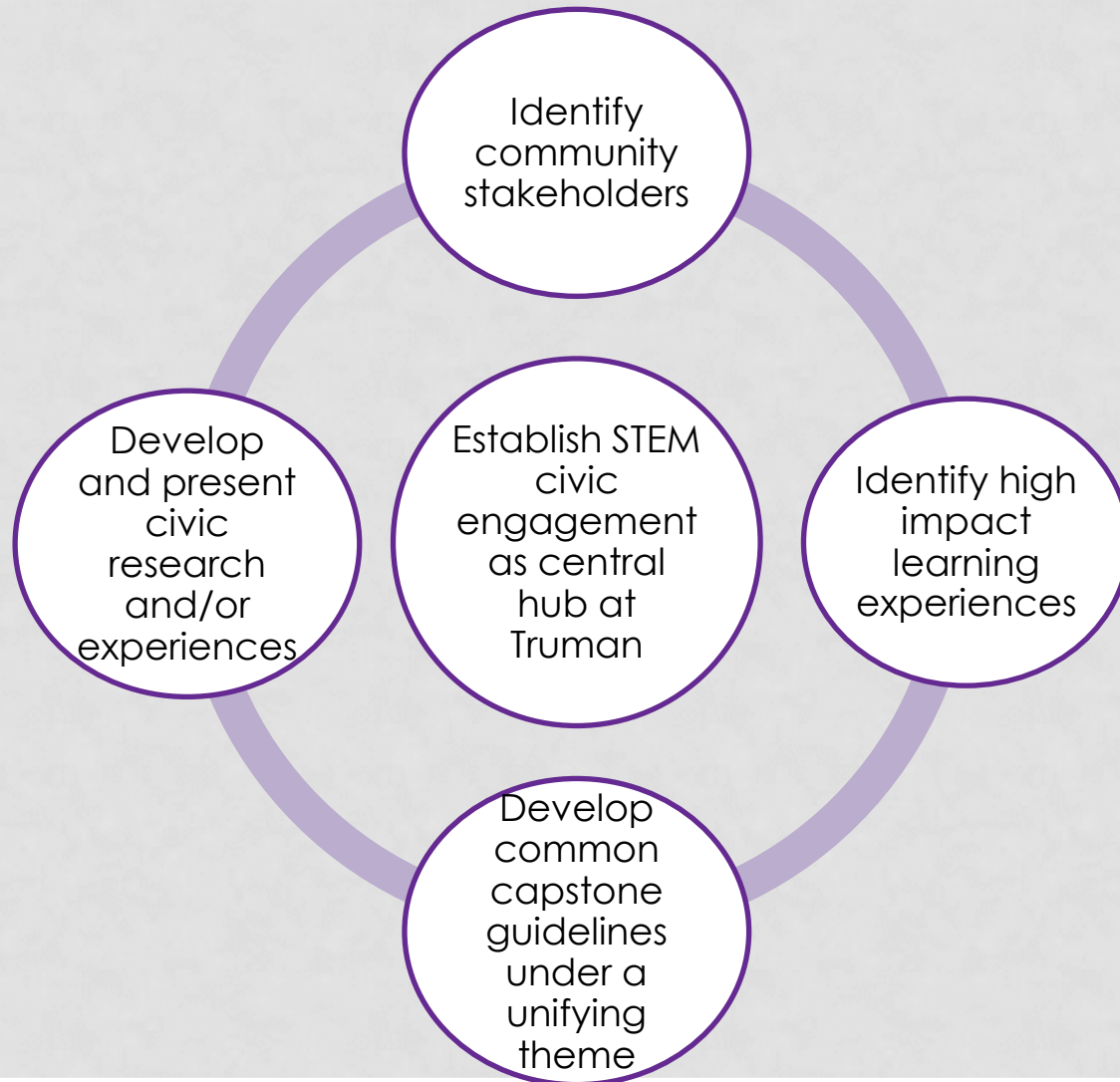
BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTATION

- **Budgeting**
 - Late addition to the schedule
 - Breakfast
- **Communication**
 - Contact between Truman Week planners and Res Life
- **Student Transportation**
 - More systematic approach for student travel

CHANGES FOR BULLDOGS IN ACTION 2015

- **Student presence and recognition**
- **Logistical information**
- **Presence of Truman week instructors**
- **More focus on civic engagement**
 - Reflection about service and application to the course

FUTURE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT TRUMAN



FUTURE DIRECTIONS

1. Provide incentives for faculty/organizations to include civic engagement/SENCER elements within curricula and activities.
2. Modify and expand the Truman Week experience curricula to nurture/support civic engagement.
3. Provide a new forum for students to share these potentially transformative experiences.
4. **Campus-wide Assessments:**
 - Senior Portfolios
 - high-impact learning experiences
 - student capstone experiences
 - Student Research Conference civic experiences shared during annual.

NEXT STEPS

1. assess students' high-impact learning experiences via the Truman Portfolio system.
2. provide incentives for faculty/organizations to offer alternative break experiences.
3. modify and expand the Truman Week experience curricula to nurture/support civic engagement.
4. assess student capstone experiences campus-wide, including evaluation of senior portfolio entries.
5. assess the number of civic experiences shared during annual Student Research Conference.
6. provide a new forum for students to share these potentially transformative experiences.

QUESTIONS, FEEDBACK, THOUGHTS

GENESIS HOUSE 6TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET

- A home for women during an unplanned pregnancy or pregnancy crisis in Edina, MO



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- To plan, implement and evaluate the Genesis House annual fundraising banquet
- **Responsibilities :**
 - Obtain funds
 - Create print materials
 - Gain sponsors and silent auction items
 - Recruit volunteers
 - Help manage the event



RESULTS

- **Over 50 silent auction baskets donated**
- **53 sponsors**
- **Nearly \$10,000 raised**

