



The Talloires
Network

The Importance of Civic Engagement in American Society



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Linking Campus to Community



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What is civic engagement?

“Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes.”

- *Civic Responsibility and Higher Education*, edited by Thomas Ehrlich, published by Oryx Press, 2000.



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DIVERSE FORMS OF ENGAGEMENT

- Political- Voting; partisan advocacy
- Civic- community organizing and development; social justice; civic reflection- debate and discussion in the public sphere; journalism; environmentalism
- Religious- faith-based initiatives; inter-faith dialogue and action



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FACTORS INFLUENCING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN AMERICA

- Strong tradition of philanthropy (public and private)
- Robust nonprofit sector and civil society organizations
- Diversity of viewpoints represented in the public sphere
- Government/ policy support of service (Americorps, Peace Corps)
- A variety of pressing social concerns and needs



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HISTORY OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

1880-1900

- Emergence of social work to respond to the needs of immigrants in urban centers
- Settlement house movement influences creation of civic engagement centers on university campuses

Jane Addams Hull House

- Jane Addams was the 1st American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.



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THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

1950s-60s

- Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - “Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”



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CONTEMPORARY EXAMPLES OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

- **Recent passage of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act**
 - Service as a strategy to meet specific national challenges such as addressing the dropout crisis and strengthening our schools; improving energy efficiency; safeguarding the environment; improving health care and expanding economic opportunity in low-income communities; and preparing for and responding to disasters and emergencies.
- **Campus Compact**
 - National network of universities and colleges committed to community engagement
 - Founded in 1985 by the presidents of Brown, Georgetown and Stanford Universities and the president of the Education Commission of the States



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TALLOIRES DECLARATION

“Our institutions recognize that we do not exist in isolation from society, nor from the communities in which we are located. Instead, we carry a unique obligation to listen, understand, and contribute to social transformation and development.”



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VALUES & PURPOSE OF THE NETWORK

- Foster partnerships between universities and communities to empower groups and individuals and increase the relevance of university education
- Build a culture of civic engagement through reciprocal relationships with communities and mutual exchange between members
- Build a diverse and international membership to incorporate new perspectives, motivations, and ideas for how universities can engage with their communities, society and world



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SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION AGREE TO:

- Expand civic engagement and social responsibility programs
- Ensure that standards of excellence, critical debate, scholarly research and peer judgment are applied rigorously to community engagement
- Embed public responsibility through personal example and the policies and practices of our higher education institutions
- Disseminate information and raise awareness about issues of civil importance and the contributions of higher education to social advancement



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RESOURCES

- Odyssey Project

<http://www.prairie.org/OdysseyProject>

- Project on Civic Reflection

<http://civicreflection.org/>

- Professors Beyond Borders

<http://www.professorsbeyondborders.org/>



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<http://www.tufts.edu/talloiresnetwork>