

Civics as a Completion Strategy: Bridging Democracy, Student Success, and Workforce Readiness

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Session Overview

Why Civic Learning Now?

Nia Woods Haydel

CLDE Learning Framework and Partnership with State Systems and SHEEO

Carol Geary Schneider

Kentucky CPE's Leadership for Essential Learning *Melissa Bell*

Evidence and Measurement

Jillian Kinzie

Q&A and Discussion



Why Civic Learning Now?

Nia Woods Haydel

Complete College America



Framing the Issue: Why Civic Learning Now?

- ★ Student success as a democracy issue
- ★ Civic learning improves persistence, completion, and learning outcomes
- ★ Policy momentum and institutional readiness
- ★ CCA Report: Complete College, America: Harnessing the Power of Higher Education to Renew American Democracy



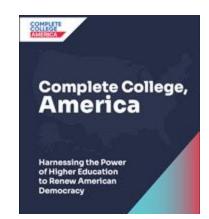




Linking Student Success and Civic Engagement

- ★ Research synthesis showing how students benefit from civic learning and engagement
- ★ Participation in service-learning

 (a community-engaged high-impact practice) is shown to boost academic and practical skills



How College Students Benefit From Civic Learning and Engagement

A synthesis of major research studies shows that students gain many benefits from participating in civic-related high-impact practices (HIPs). When students engage in civic-related HIPs, which combine *knowing* and *doing*, they are more likely to persist in and complete college. They also gain a strong understanding of social issues, improve their academic and problem-solving abilities, and develop skills that employers value.

Graduation and retention 11 studies) and other nstitutional outcomes (2)	★ More likely to graduate ★ Earned more credits	★ Institutional implementation of collaborative and participatory pedagogies
institutional outcomes (2)	★ More likely to re-enroll	* Students practicing collaborative and mutual learning
Mindsets and dispositions (17)	★ Increased openness to and understanding of diversity ★ Increased awareness of social issues and social justice	 More positive attitude toward school and enjoyment of challenging tasks
	★ Increased adaptability	★ Increased self-efficacy and sense of belonging
	★ Positive self-perceptions of socially responsible leadership	
Personal and social responsibility (28)	★ Increased civic attitudes and civic mindedness	★ Civic learning
	★ Increased civic and community-based engagement (desire/goals, behaviors during and after college,	★ Perceived civic and social responsibility
	perceived value)	★ Moral and ethical reasoning and actions
Intellectual and practical skills (9)	★ Improved interpersonal skills: communication,	* Increased academic content learning and skills such as
	collaboration, and teamwork Increased problem-solving and critical thinking skills	research, writing, and mathematical analysis
Career preparation (4)	★ Better career exploration skills	* Increased career-related knowledge and skills
	★ Increased career exploration in a field related to public service	
Learning gains (10)	★ Improved grades and grade point average (GPA)	* Self-reported general learning gains
	★ Improved test performance and assignment scores	
Findings for underserved students ² (11)	Most consistently discussed in terms of race effects across student populations	★ Tend to focus on a small set of outcomes, such as cumulative GPA, retention rates, credits earned, and

FIGURE 6

Research

Culminating experience

or capstone

High-Impact Practices (HIPs) — Particularly Service Learning — Boost Academic and Practical Skills

Students' participation in HIPs results in significant gains in both academic and practical skills. Students get the most dramatic boost when they take courses that include a community-based project (service learning).

40 37% 35% 30 25 23% 20 16% 17% 15% 15% 15% 15% 13% 10%

Service Learning Provides Academic and Practical Learning Gains

Learning

community

Service learning

Academic learning gains include:

- Writing clearly and effectively;
- Speaking clearly and effectively;
- Thinking critically and analytically; and
- Analyzing numerical and statistical information.

Practical learning gains include:

- Acquiring job- or work-related knowledge and skills;
- Working effectively with others;
- Developing/clarifying a personal code of values and ethics;
- Understanding people of other backgrounds;
- Solving complex real-world problems; and
- Being an informed and active citizen.
- Overall learning gains are the combination of academic and practical learning gains.

Source: Valentine, J., Price, D., & Yang, H.; DVP-PRAXIS LTD (2021). High-impact practices and gains in student learning: Evidence from Georgia, Montana, and Wisconsin, Lumina Foundation.

Study abroad

Internship



Every Student, Every Degree: CLDE Learning Framework and Partnership with State Systems and SHEEO

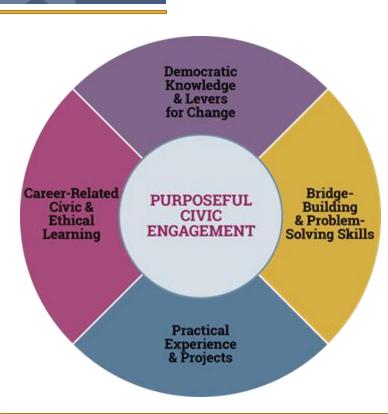
Carol Geary Schneider

Civic Learning and Democracy Engagement Coalition



The CLDE Learning Framework

- ★ Students' own journeys are central
- ★ Reflection on students' identities, experiences, societal roles, civic purpose
- ★ They make their own choices about civic engagement—in careers as well as civil society
- **★** More at <u>www.collegeciviclearning.org</u>





CLDE Learning – From First to Final Year

The CLDE Framework:

- ★ Centers Democracy—U.S. and Global (Too Often Democracy Is Assumed Rather than Explored)
- ★ Connects Engagement Across Difference With Creating Solutions to Significant Problems
- ★ Values Practical Experience And Collaborative Learning From Those Practical Experiences
- ★ Connects Civic and Ethical Inquiry to Students' Career Plans and Workplace Experience





State Systems as Key CLDE Partners: The Multi-State Collaborative for College Civic Learning and Democracy Engagement (MSC)

- ★ The CLDE Coalition helped build the MSC as a key "scaling" partner.

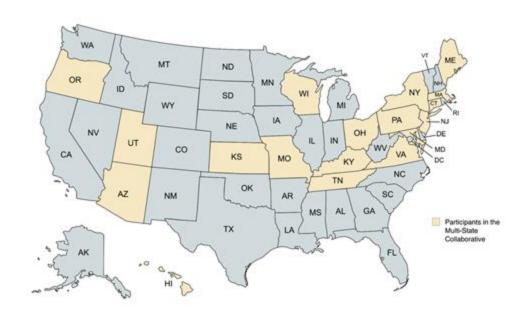
 MSC members affirm that civic learning should be part of **all** students' college experience.
- **★** There now are 20 states/systems in the MSC: AZ, CT State Community College (system), CUNY, HI, KS, KY, MA, MD (state and system), MO, NJ, OH, OR, PA, SUNY, TN, UT, VA, WI with others pending
- ★ Within the MSC, **KY CPE is especially comprehensive and sophisticated** in its approach to civic learning for all students.



Multi-State Collaborative for College Civic Learning and Democracy Engagement

Strategy and Approach

- Broad Institutional Engagement,
 Focus on Affirming Diverse
 Missions and Contexts
- Shared Recognition of Civic Learning As Essential to 21st-Century Education





Both the CLDE Framework and the

KY Essential Skills Invite

Pathway Thinking and Planning—

Guided Curricular Pathways Are One of the

Key Strategies in the

Student Success Movement.



Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education's Leadership for Essential Learning

Melissa Bell

Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education



Kentucky Graduate Profile: The 10 Essential Skills



Communication



Critical thinking



Quantitative reasoning



Interpersonal relations



Adaptability and leadership



Professionalism



Civic engagement



Collaboration and teamwork



Knowledge application







Civic Literacy + Learning = Civic Engagement

ApplicationCivic Engagement

SkillsCivic Learning

KnowledgeCivic Literacy





Three Levels of Skills

Achievement Level	Performance Level	Educational Level	
Benchmark	Beginning to acquire skill or knowledge or but may need guidance or support	High school completion	
Milestone	Demonstrate competence independently	Associate degree or halfway through bachelor's degree	
Capstone	Apply the competency with expertise and precision	Completion of bachelor's degree	





Essential Skill 7: Engage in civic life **Benchmark** Level

- Respectfully discusses basic ideas, expressing one's own opinions and acknowledging those of others.
- Articulates knowledge of democratic principles, the U.S.
 Constitution, and the impact of individual and community involves in American Government.
- Describe opportunities for individuals or groups to engage in civic life to bring about positive change.







Essential Skill 7: Engage in civic life **Milestone** Level

- Engage with others who represent different perspectives through active listening, clear and responsive dialogue, and collaboration.
- Leverages knowledge of the impact of the civic participation on public policy to plan for social action.
- Presents persuasive argument that are based on reflection and analysis of personal experiences, observation, and outside knowledge or perspectives.







Essential Skill 7: Engage in civic life Capstone Level

- Assesses community-based problems to generate solutions that reflect multiple needs and perspectives by engaging with others and with credible resources.
- Collaborates to engage community stakeholders in civic action that targets appropriate levers for civic change.
- Tailors communications to elicit support for civic action in response to needs, interests, and/or potential contributions of different audiences, integrating reflection on the impacts of that action.







Exemplar Assessment



"GOLDENBOD'S VISION 2035"

Essential Skill 7: Engage in Civic Life to Improve Society Exemplar Case Study Assessment

Milestone Level

Learner Instructions

You wan for the office of Major Robbin Annies in the town you given up in, Goldenood, Everbocks, and have been sided to design a strategy to revitable their dying downtown area. The strategy is called Vision 2015 and it's a color engagement plan to leng this commonly survive the pupulation and exchange challenges they've faced. The town has stragged with a dewriting population for gother other and examp people have meaning away, Locks portional overantly as a town half a best their ideas and peopletives for how to revitable the community, Using a guided template and the resource extensive your people and the course toward bodies a showing olderowed commoning to be 2015.

When a rural town "thriver" again, it's marked by a viole's sense of pride among its residents, economic and calman's blowers, and necessity of ensured optimizes for future generations, in a thriving community, there's a galgabile sense of connectedness, people have access to excentiful services and got deportmetter, and the quality of this improves in a way that makes residents feel invested in studying or returning.

Case Study: Goldenrod, Kentucky

Goldenood is a usual town with a population less than 1,500 in sustineation learning. The first nacessable industry was production of one in the 1800's, which expended in one of an extraction of time. Like many tensor at that first, being a disquaried isso for the rainwal resulter is economic and population greater. Colleteror's discontens was was greating and observed with hetels, estimates, storms, priorry markets, schools, and a strong lood government. But as the discontent appetite for coal coursets, Sucresses decision, resulting is increased unemplayment rains and descreased population. Quantities businesses closed ethics down, and the opportunity to find work locally was shallenging at lest.

Though the downtown was dying in this small times, Galilenoid was summanded by natural feasily and wonders, Goldenoid is Scaled near the Combinated Nover and in the heart of mountains and valleys. Since the pandwise, there has been knew interest by Goldenoid revidents to bring downtown buck to to day of glory and incommiss strength and sustainability to the community.

To Complete the Assessment

For each step below, write your responses in the "Learner's Guided Milestone Template."

Review the Kentucky Main Street Program: To get a sense of some of the <u>dissections</u> <u>monetageness</u> work in Kentucky evolves <u>for Exempty Main Street Program</u>, July benefits and providing goals in ordering a dissections area.



- Explore Community Engagement Strategies: Examine the development plans for other towns that have undergoine a downtown revitalization (e.g., the Kentucky towns of Harlan, Askland, or Somerset).
 - Summarise what approaches the towns took to get members of the community involved in the process. Identify the different channels, venues, and audiences these towns pursued to ensure holidoic community representation when they were developing the appropriate solutions.
 - Recommend three to five approaches to engaging the public you would use in the revitalization of Goldenrod, XX, including a brief rationale for each recommendation.
- Identify Levers for Clark Change: Review the notes from Major Jandan's Trees Half to gather idens from the Goldensod community. Using the ideas provided by community members in the Town Half notes, identify and describe:
 - a. One recommendation that would require the implementation of new local policy.
 - One recommendation that could be implemented with no cost to the town with an effective word of mouth messaging campaign.
 - One recommendation that would require partnership with an organization or company outside of Goldenrod.
 - One recommendation that would require partnership with a local community group or organization.
- Assess Community Based Problems: Using your chosen town from Step Two, give two examples of how facts/data about the community needs were used to inform a proposed solution and/or engagement activity.
- Develop Strategies and Goals fee Vision 2035: Using your chosen town in Step Two and the Town Hall notes, list three to five strategies for building a thriving downtown area that you would recommend for revitalizing Goldenzod. For each strategy, include:
 - Rationale for prioritizing the recommended strategy for Goldenrod.
 Two to three target outcomes for each strategy to illustrate the goal(s) of the
 - Two to three target outcomes for each strategy to illustrate the goal(s) of the approach.
 - c. A timeline of the key stein or phases for implementing the strategy by 2035.
 - A community engagement approach for designing, implementing, sustaining, and reflecting on this strategy in partnership with Goldenrod residents.





Civics in the Curriculum

- Western Kentucky University's Honors Program houses the Civic Engagement Resource Center, which offers courses in what it means to be a steward of democracy.
- Kentucky State University revised general education core to strengthen understanding of civics.
- Northern Kentucky University's "Self and Society" element of general education focuses on cultural pluralism.
- Morehead State University's March to Service initiative integrates community service into curricula.
- Kentucky Community and Technical College System plans to embed civic engagement in specific general education disciplines and technical programs.





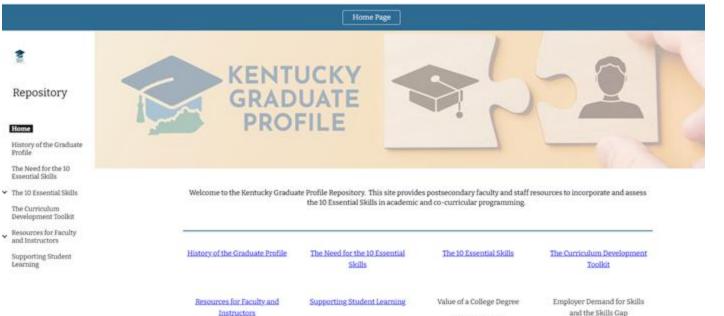
Other Civic-Related Efforts

- Eastern Kentucky University's Colonels at the Capitol assigns students to state legislators for a semester to learn about the legislative process.
- Northern Kentucky University built a learning module in the LMS for the 2024 election cycle for faculty to integrate election and policy information into their classes.
- University of Louisville's McConnell Center Civic Education Program conducts programs for Kentucky educators, students (K-12 and college), and the general public focused on U.S. history and citizenship in the 21st century.





Faculty and Staff Resources



Coming soon!

Coming soon!



Repository

Profile: The Need for the 10 **Essential Skills**

The Curriculum

Supporting Student Learning



Want more information on the Kentucky Graduate Profile?



Melissa Bell Vice President, Academic Excellence 502-892-3007 melissa.bell@ky.gov





Evidence and Measurement

The National Portrait: What do we know about college students' civic learning experiences and knowledge?

What evidence can inform and guide state systems' and institutions' civic initiatives?

Jillian Kinzie

National Survey of Student Engagement, IU Center for Postsecondary Research



What Students Sav...



- Surveys to assess the extent to which students engage in educational practices associated with high levels of learning and development
- Core NSSE Survey & Civic Engagement Topical Module
- Results provide institutions diagnostic, actionable information





NSSE Survey Instruments view items, Civic Topical Module



What Students Say...

 Student feedback & perceptions are a key data source

Occanditation October

How much does your institution emphasize...Developing a sense of responsibility to the communities that matter to you?

62% Seniors

substantial ("very much" + "quite a bit")

When I accompanied my professor to Malaysia and conducted a research project on microplastic distribution...a significantly important issue, prevalent in all countries now. - SR bio major

Thinking about...What has been most meaningful to you?

Being able to use my voice to support my community and others that matter to me and the world. - FY student

There's a lot of different things going on in the world right now. With everyone having different opinions, it is most meaningful to talk about it with others to get insight on where they are coming from. - FY student



CIVIC EXPERIENCES

Participate in a Community-Based Project (service-learning)

- 52% first-year students
- 59% seniors
- 23% community college students

Avg. hours per week volunteering = 2.4



Civic Engagement Topical Module (2025)

Originally adapted from a survey of democratic engagement developed by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, this module has been updated to ask students to assess their institution's emphasis on civic issues and their abilities to resolve conflicts, participate in dialogue and contribute to community well-being, and how often students have engaged with campus, local, state, national, or global issues. Items align with the Civic Learning and Democracy Engagement (CLDE) Framework (collegeciviclearning.org). The module complements questions on the core survey about service-learning, community service or volunteer work, and becoming an informed and active citizen. (Similar FSSE set available.)

1. How much does your institution emphasize the following?

Response options: Very much. Quite a bit. Some. Very little

- a. Discussing important social, economic, or political issues with others
- D. Organizing activities focused on important social, economic, or political issues
- c. Being an informed and active participant in campus, local, state, or national issues
- d. Being involved in an organization or group focused on important social, economic, or political issues
- e. Voting in campus, local, state, or national elections
- f. Encouraging free speech and expression
- g. Developing a sense of responsibility to the communities that matter to you

2. How comfortable do you feel addressing important social, economic, or political issues in the following?

Response options: Very much. Quite a bit. Some. Very little

- a. In course assignments
- b. In course discussions
- c. Outside of class or in your community



3. Select the response that best represents your ability to do the following:

Response options: Poor (1) to Excellent (5).

- a. Help people work through their disagreements with each other
- Respond to conflicts that involve bias, discrimination, and prejudice
- c. Lead a group in which people from different backgrounds feel welcomed and included
- d. Participate in a constructive dialogue with someone who disagrees with you

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

SPECIAL-FOCUS ITEMS Civic Learning

What are CCSSE special-focus items?

In order to keep the survey fresh and relevant for the community college field, a special-focus item set is administered each year with CCSSE. This enables colleges to more deeply explore certain issues that are key to improved student engagement and success.

All colleges receive the five special-focus items as part of their CCSSE administration. Students are asked to mark their responses under "Additional items" at the end of the <u>survey</u>. The results from these items are provided as frequency distributions with colleges' standard CCSSE reports.

CCSSE 2026 items

Colleges that participate in CCSSE 2026 will receive five special-focus flems about civic learning. The items will explore students' gains in civic purpose, bridge building across difference, and problem-solving proficiency.

How much has your experience at this college contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?

(Please respond to each item)

- Being an informed and active citizen
 - Very much
 - Quite a bit
 - Some
 - Very little
- 2. Working effectively with others
 - Very much
 - Quite a bit. Some

 - Very little
- 3. Developing/clarifying a personal code of ethics and values
 - Very much
 - Quite a bit
 - Some
 - Very Stale

- Understanding people from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds
 - Very much
 - Quite a bit
 - Some
 - Very little
- 5. Solving complex real-world problems
 - Very much
 - Quite a bit
 - Some
 - d. Very little



LEARNING and DEMOCRACY **── ★** ENGAGEMENT

National Indicators: Measuring What Matters





Mapping CLDE Framework to NSSE

THE CLDE FRAMEWORK FOR COLLEGE CIVIC LEARNING AND DEMOCRACY ENGAGEMENT





- Civic institutional emphasis; Connected learning to societal problems or issues; made connections with prior knowledge, other courses, and societal issues; took into account diverse perspectives, etc.
- Ability to help people manage disagreements, respond to conflicts; lead across difference; participate in constructive dialogue; contribute to well-being of community; Frequency of informing, discussing, raising awareness, asking others to address, organizing others to work on campus, state issues
- Service-learning; Reflected on views while examining views of others; Included diverse perspectives (course discuss/ assignments)
- Used numerical information to examine real-world problem/ issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.); Developing personal code of values & ethics; Involvement in civic issues



Mapping CLDE Framework to NSSE

THE CLDE FRAMEWORK FOR COLLEGE CIVIC LEARNING AND DEMOCRACY ENGAGEMENT





THE CLDE FRAMEWORK FOR COLLEGE CIVIC LEARNING AND DEMOCRACY ENGAGEMENT

# NSSE Items in CLDE Framework	Dem Knowled. Levers for Change	Bridge/ Problem Solving	Practical Exp. & Projects	Career- Related Civic Lrng.
NSSE Core	0 Explicit to Dem/Const. Knowledge 5 Levers	33	4	2
Civic Module	7 Levers	15	2	7

Promising Tools and Examples



Assessment & Evaluation
To better understand what civic engagement looks like and to assess the extent to which students are civically engaged upon graduation.



Student Assessment Matrix for Civically Engaged Learning Goals

stablished 2018, updated 2024

Concepts	Indicators	Methods	Sources	
What do we want them to know?	How will we know they know it?	How do we measure it?	Who provides the data:	
CIVIC KNOWLEDGE				
Understands the complexity of a community/social issue	Knowledge of community/social issue Analyzes varied perspectives of the community/social issue Relates community/social issue with personal experience and research	Classroom abservations Self-report/Reflection Assignment/Project Interviews	Students Faculty Community partners	
Examines organizations that address the community/social	Identifies community organizations Evaluates community strengths and needs Explains how organizations work to address community/social issue	Classroom observations Self-report/Reflection Assignment/Project Community observations	Students Faculty Community partners	
Analyzes actions/processes to be taken and systems in place to address a social issue or community problem	Identifies actions or processes (voting, confacting officials, volunteering, petitioning) Evaluates various social environments, systems, or "lenses" (community, social, governmental) as it relates to the issue/problem	Classroom observations Self-report/Reflection Assignment/Project Interviews.	Students Faculty Community partners	
CIVIC SKILLS			8	
Questions and critically analyzes a community/social issue	Asks complex/deep questions about the community/social issue Uses vacious lenses to analyze the community/social issue	Classroom observations Self-report/Reflection Assignment/Project Community observations Interviews.	Students Faculty Community partners	
Applies discipline-specific knowledge to address a community/social issue	 Demonstrates role and relevance of civic engagement to understanding course content. Applies course content in proposing solutions and/or grappling with social and community issues. Understands the opportunities for career preparation related to ovice engagement. 	Classroom observations Self-report/Reflection Assignment/Project Interviews	Students Faculty Community partners	
Collaborates with people with diverse perspectives and social identities to address a community/social issue	Expresses knowledge of new communities and identities Attlaudes about and understanding of diversity, diversity perspectives, and social identities. Quantity and quality of interactions with others.	Classroom observations Self-report/Reflection Community observations Interviews.	Students Faculty Community partners	
CIVIC DISPOSITION			•	
Considers personal attriudes, values, and/or beliefs when considering a community/social issue	Awareness of personal strengths, limits, goals, and fears Changes in preconceived understandings/ability to articulate beliefs Considers one's identity in the way they view a community/social issue.	- Self-report/Reflection - Interviews	Students Faculty Community partners	
Acknowledges one's own civic responsibility	Attitude toward civic engagement experience Expresses plans for and barriers to future civic engagement Reactions to demands/challenges of civic engagement	Classroom observations Self-report/Reflection Community observations Interviews	Students Faculty Community partners	
CIVIC PARTICIPATION		English consequences	Barrer and Company	
Leadu/Coordinates efforts in addressing a community/social issue	bemonstrates autonomy, a sense of responsibility, and independence Appreciates co-educators (peers and community) Level and depth of civic engagement	Classroom observations Self-report/Reflection Community observations Interviews	Students Faculty Community partners	
Engages with the community in a variety of ways	Role within civic engagement experience Quantity and quality of interactions with peers and community partners Participates in multiple forms of civic engagement	Classroom observations Self-report/Reflection Community observations Interviews	Students Faculty Community partners.	

Well brigg //Chicangagement, fillnosuitate edu/faculty staff/assessment and evaluation instruments/for self-report instruments and resources.

Methods Sources Who provides the data? How do we measure it?





Classroom observations Self-report/Reflection

Students

Assignment/Project Interviews

Classroom observations

Self-report/Reflection

 Faculty Community partners

Students

Faculty

What do we wont them to be: CIVIC KNOWLEDGE CIVIC SKILLS

Indicators

Assignment/Project Community partners Community observations Classroom observations Students Self-report/Reflection Faculty Assignment/Project Community partners Interviews

CIVIC DISPOSITION

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

 Classroom observations Students Self-report/Reflection Faculty

Assignment/Project Community partners Community observations

Interviews Classroom observations Students Self-report/Reflection

Assignment/Project Interviews

Classroom observations

Self-report/Reflection

Faculty Community partners

Students Faculty

Community observations Community partners

Self-report/Reflection Interviews

Interviews

Students Faculty

Community partners

upon graduation.

CENTER FOR

Illinois State University

engagement looks like and to assess the extent to which students are civically engaged

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Assessment & Evaluation

To better understand what civic

Promising Tools and Examples



What Civic Measures & Evidence Are Useful?





Discussion







To share your own civic and democracy work with the **CLDE Coalition**, please write:

info@collegeciviclearning.org

Join our mailing list at:

www.collegeciviclearning.org/contact



THANK YOU!