

Community Engagement Task Force

January 24, 2009
The Westin Edina Galleria
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Meeting #2 WEB Summary

Welcome

Chair Karin Stone welcomed the group, reviewed the agenda and stated the purpose of today's meeting: to agree on definition and framework for community engagement and to generate ideas to fulfill the charge of the Community Engagement Task Force.

Commission Gustavus 150 Update

Karin presented selected findings of the other seven task force meetings and selected ideas from National Summit Meetings that related to community and service values.

Review/Discuss Community Engagement Charge

Karin led the group in a brief exercise by asking them to consider their favorite 'brand' and then briefly share what made those brands effective. Members were asked to consider how community engagement might become an integral aspect of the brand of Gustavus.

Audiences to Engage

The group identified audiences with which to connect when considering issues of community engagement: current and prospective students, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, administration, non-profits, businesses, St. Peter/Mankato/Twin Cities, national organizations, global organizations, regional (5-6 states) organizations, donors/friends, K-12 schools, governmental agencies, churches, foundations.

Idea Generation

A framework was provided to generate ideas of community engagement to be directed to the audiences the group identified. The framework had four charges:

1. Enhance student engagement through the development of residential learning communities to integrate student learning beyond the classroom (individual).
2. Develop and sustain a community committed to, and practiced in, intellectual diversity and civil discourse (campus).
3. Engage with local partners for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge, the strengthening of our community, and students' civic and academic learning (local community).
4. Engage with regional partners for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge, the strengthening of our community, and students' civic and academic learning (world).

Task Force members were divided into four small working groups and were asked to consider three questions regarding their assigned framework charge.

- What is the aspiration for your charge? What will it look like when you are “there”?
- What are the current strengths in place at Gustavus?
- What are the ideas and opportunities?

Wrap Up

Members were invited to take one of the books provided as background before the next Community Engagement Task Force meeting.

Forces for Good: The Six Practices of High-Impact Nonprofits

The Spirit of Service: Exploring Faith, Service, and Social Justice in Higher Education.

All Task Force members were asked to share an idea they had heard, a data request they would like to make or a comment that resonated with them.

Next meeting of the Community Engagement Task Force

February 21, 2009 from 9 AM – 3 PM at Gustavus Adolphus College