

To: Faculty Senate
From: Civitae Core Curriculum Committee
Date: 18 April 2023
Re: Annual Report

Members of the committee

Heather Lettner-Rust (Chair)
Bob Barnwell
Jen Beach
Josh Blakely
Wade Edwards
Karen Feathers
Adam Franssen
Elise Green

Greg Mole
Eric Moore
Kris Paal
Lauren Rice
Tyler St. Clair
Derek Taylor
Linda Townsend
Tom Wears

The work in Civitae continues to be inward and outward facing, always with our students in mind. The inward facing work supports faculty and student learning in ways that bring faculty together to collaborate on best practices and sharpen their acumen for teaching. This May, the university will host nearly a week-long session for faculty development starting with the one-day 10th annual Teaching & Learning Institute and then a three-day workshop sponsored by the Teagle Grant. The Teaching & Learning Institute will be devoted to Teaching for Civic Engagement and seeds work for the three-day Teagle Seminar during which Civitae and Longwood faculty will be steeped in the study of foundational documents allowing our students' work to advance their understanding of democracy.

Civitae's outward facing work has been the director's collaborations with state and national initiatives in Civic Learning. In December, Civitae Director Heather Lettner-Rust presented with representatives from South Carolina and Florida in a panel entitled "Infusing Civic Inquiry and Purpose Across the Core Curriculum: New Urgency, New Vision, New Educator–Policy Leader Alliances" at the conference *Civic Learning for an Engaged Democracy* sponsored by the Civic Learning and Democracy Engagement Coalition. The CLDE is a group formed by "the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), Complete College America, College Promise, and the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, a new coalition of higher education and student success organizations committed to ensuring that civic learning is both expected and experienced equitably across postsecondary education in the United States."

On February 9, 2023, Dr. Meg Thompson, Associate Professor of Kinesiology, presented "What's Ceramics Got to Do With It?: General Education Reform Through Civic Education" at the AAC&U Conference on General Education, Pedagogy, and Assessment in New Orleans, Louisiana. This presentation shared Longwood's approach to shaping the clay, if you will, of students' discipline-specific skills and processes to the mold of active citizens ready for civic engagement. She will share her experience with the Civitae Committee.

This fall, Dr. Lettner-Rust was a member of the SCHEV Civic Engagement Advisory Committee to assist in developing a cohesive definition of Civic Engagement for state-wide work under SCHEV's policies. Currently, she is on the committee to design SCHEV's *Day of Dialogue: Civic Learning & Engagement* held this year at University of Mary Washington on June 5th.

The message of the good work of Longwood's general education program is getting around. Johns Hopkins University President Ron Daniels, mentioned Longwood in his plenary speech to the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, Sunday, February 5th that we, along with Stanford and Harvard, are taking seriously the need for higher education to engage students with their role in democracy.

Symposium continues to be a day of dialogue, deliberation, and discussion around our theme "E Pluribus Unum." For this our third year of Civitae cohorts, we have focused the day on intentional deliberation. From there, for the fall and spring Symposium Day, the 300+ students presented in 4 concurrently-run sessions over the course of the day. To end the day, we took a page from our work with the Teagle Grant in hosting deliberative dialogues, placing students in small groups in Blackwell Hall, each with a moderator to ask them now how they define "E Pluribus Unum" and citizenship in the name of the common good.