

Civic Engagement and Community Learning Initiatives

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Ed 400: Senior Seminar

CLI Overview

- Began in '95-'96 School Year
- 18 Courses offered Fall 2004
- Over 100 courses developed through CLI
- Goals: “Enlarging understanding and learning of course materials, at the same time as providing a benefit for one or more community partners”

Trinity's Mission Statement

1. To foster critical thinking
2. To free the mind of parochialism and prejudice
3. To prepare students to lead examined lives that are personally satisfying, civically responsible, and socially useful.

Research Question

- Do CLIs increase levels of student engagement?
 - Correlation/ causation problem
- **Is there a correlation between high levels of student engagement and high levels of participation in CLIs?**

Evolution of a Thesis

- High levels of participation in CLIs result in high levels of civic engagement.
- There is a strong correlation between high levels of civic engagement and high levels of participation in CLIs.
- **There is no apparent direct relationship between high levels of civic engagement and high levels of participation in CLIs.**

Research Methods

- Survey Data
- Random Sample
- Examined Data by:
 - Number of CLIs
 - Number of civic engagement hours
 - Initial perspectives on Hartford
 - Change in perspectives

Research Question #2

- Does participation in CLIs improve student perceptions of Hartford?
- **Is there a direct relationship between number of CLI courses taken by a student and a greater increase toward more positive personal perceptions of Hartford?**

Thesis #2

- Participation in CLIs increases student perceptions of Hartford regardless of the level of participation.

Findings

- Number of hours of civic engagement and participation in CLIs appear to have no direct relationship to one another.

	0	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 6	7 to 8	9+
0 CLIs	7	19	1	1	0	0
1 to 2 CLIs	4	13	4	1	2	2
3 to 4 CLIs	2	4	0	4	0	0
4 to 5 CLIs	0	0	1	0	0	0
5+	1	1	0	0	0	0

Findings (Cont.)

- The average participant in CLIs' perception of Hartford changed positively after taking the class(es).

Average Change in Perception Pre and Post CLI Participation		
1 to 2 CLI	2.217391	Somewhat Positivey
3 to 4 CLI	2.444444	Somewhat Positively
4 to 5 CLI	1	Very Positively
5+ CLI	2	Somewhat Positively

Other Interesting Findings for Further Research

- Females appear more likely to participate in CLIs.
- A majority of students surveyed participate in civic engagement activities on a regular basis.
- Students with more negative initial perspectives on Hartford are more likely to participate in higher levels of CLIs.

Average Initial Perspective of Hartford when Arriving at Trinity		
0 CLI	3.25	Neutral
1 to 2 CLI	3.217391	Neutral
3 to 4 CLI	3.3	Neutral
4 to 5 CLI	3.5	Negative
5+ CLI	4	Negative

Questions?