

GLOBAL CIVIS

Education Beyond the Classroom Walls...

Civic Engagement Portfolio

Executive Summary:

As the levels of voter participation and thus civic awareness are decreasing the opportunity for young adults to take leadership roles is at its highest.

Participating Organizations:

Global Civis:

Communication and events have empowered the people of the world to think not just locally but globally. What affects us here affects others around the world, forcing what we consider to be "our" community to grow.

In order to better understand and participate in this global community it is a necessity for its citizens to have first hand experiences in the many languages, cultures and lands that have developed. It was in this passion that the idea of "Global Civis" was born. Being a Global Civis or a global citizen is accepting the responsibility to practice the ancient Greek ideal of civic virtue, where a citizen places the needs of the community equal to or ahead of their own. Global Civis promotes this goal through the areas of world travel, individual enrichment and alternative assessments.

Global Civis was established as a path for global change through local education. As we entered the 21st century, too often education was being driven by textbook publishers and standardized tests. It is the hope of Global Civis to utilize creative instructional techniques and alternative assessments to create new challenges for our students to be the best global citizens. To accomplish this objective, it is the purpose of Global Civis to educate our students through the foundation of commitment, integrity, professionalism and scholarship.

Latino Leadership:

Latino Leadership as a non-profit, non-partisan, community-based organization, our mission is to guarantee the welfare of our children by pursuing the development of a model, strong and vibrant Hispanic community for Central Florida through leadership development and empowerment, education advancement, and economic community development.

We are a Learning Organization. In an ever-changing complex world, it is important that we engage in ongoing learning. We encourage the active participation of all community members, openness to dialogue, and clear communication.

We are Inclusive. We respect the rich landscape of individuals, organizations, cultures, and opinions that exist in our region. We believe that this diversity is an asset and that investment in this social capital will contribute to a more holistic and humane society.

We Strive for Excellence. We uphold high standards of professionalism and ethical behavior in the way we do business. We develop leadership that enables the character of those who touch the field of community service.

Lou Frey Institute of Politics & Government at UCF:

The Lou Frey Institute of Politics & Government at the University of Central Florida is a nonpartisan foundation that engages in civic education for college and high school students, members of the Central Florida community, and the general public. The Institute promotes informed discussion of issues from diverse viewpoints, encourages participation in the political process, and supports research on politics and policy.

Through its programs and Congressional Papers, the Lou Frey Institute hopes to engage students, faculty members, university staff, and community partners in a process that combines community service and academic learning while promoting civic participation, building community capacity, and enhancing the educational process.

Rollins College:

“How can we have Rollins partner with Global Civis on this and other projects?”

Civic Awareness Portfolio:

The Civic Awareness Portfolio is a year long project for the students of the Student Government Association of Winter Park High School. The class will be divided into four groups each working on their own version of a portfolio. For a final exam grade each group will present their portfolio to a group of community members.

The Civis Awareness Portfolio will consist of:

- I. Requirement to register 200 new people to vote with 75 registered by October 1, 2008.
- II. Make a point, counter-point presentation at the “Hispanics in the Political Puzzle” sponsored by Latino Leadership.
- III. Attend at least one of the Institutes presented by the Lou Frey Institute.
- IV. Create and implement a plan to lobby the Florida State Legislature for automatic voter registration for 18 year olds.
- V. Attend monthly civic group meetings.
- VI. Complete a group community service project.

- VII. Conduct a detailed polling project to find out the concerns of Winter Park High School students; of citizens of Winter Park and of citizens of Orange County.
- VIII. Conduct a workshop for the central Florida community on how to become more civically active.
- IX. Write a report illustrating the relationship between poverty and civic participation.
- X. Create a web-page to detail progress of group throughout construction of portfolio.
- XI. Complete monthly status reports.
- XII. Complete end of the year presentation.

Goals:

Goals of this portfolio are two-fold. The first and most obvious is to empower students of Winter Park High School to be more civically active. The second and long term goal is to empower citizens of central Florida to be more civically active.