



# Cultivating Engaged Citizens:

Thoughts on Best Practices, Challenges and Opportunities in Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement at

**Westfield**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

Founded 1838

# Road Map

- \* Something New Under the Sun?
- \* Implementation
- \* Whither Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement?

# Something New Under the Sun?

- \* Westfield State University gets a Civic Engagement initiative!
  - \* Supporting and expanding rather than usurping existing practices
  - \* Defining terms and institutional identity
- \* Getting from here to there
  - \* Recruiting a director and establishing an Advisory committee
  - \* Assembling an academic program
  - \* Establishing an office of Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement
  - \* VISTAs, partnerships and national programs

# Implementation

- \* Incentivizing course development
- \* Supporting and encouraging student travel and service-learning abroad
- \* Expanding public school partnerships with MACC  
Americorps VISTA support
- \* Supporting curriculum expansion and faculty buy-in  
through professional development opportunities

# Whither Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement?

- \* Faculty buy-in and support are crucial
- \* The spectrum of Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement practices should be examined in the context of the University's mission
- \* Full-time, dedicated staff are required for campus-wide successes to be sustained
- \* Partnerships will emerge organically and be rooted in communities and networks



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**we** *make a difference.*

Questions?