Cultivating Engaged Citizens: Thoughts on Best Practices, Challenges and Opportunities in Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement at Westfield State University
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
Questions?