

Washington Campus Compact Announces Faculty Engagement Survey Survey is First of its Kind in Western Region

Contact: Brian Heinrich, (360) 650-4147, brian.heinrich@wwu.edu

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Bellingham, WA – Washington Campus Compact (WACC) and the Western Region Campus Compact Consortium (WRCCC), Oregon, California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, and Utah compacts, announced plans to conduct a faculty engagement survey in the Western Region.

The first of its kind to collect faculty engagement data across a multi-state region, the WRCCC plans to administer the Faculty Engagement Survey at hundreds of campuses across Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, and Utah in February 2009. Due to the large scope of the project, Washington Campus Compact launched a pilot study in February 2008 at Antioch University Seattle, Eastern Washington University, and Washington State University, Vancouver. The research project is funded by Learn and Serve America Higher Education, a program of the Corporation for National & Community Service.

The WRCCC Faculty Engagement Survey Project will collect common data across the eight-state Campus Compact Western Region identifying current faculty service-learning and community-based research practices; possible strategies to motivate and support new faculty to do service-learning and/or community-based research; best practices by which to support faculty who already incorporate service-learning and community based research into their work; and the potential impacts of service-learning and community-based research on faculty, students, campuses, and communities.

Participating Campus Compacts will be able to use this data to shape strategic direction and programming. Participating colleges and universities will be able to use the data to learn more about how faculty members are involved in service-learning and community-based research; how to support faculty; and how service-learning impacts faculty, students, and community members.

“A research effort of this kind hasn’t been done in our region,” said Jennifer Dorr, executive director, “The outcomes of this research will help us learn more about the impacts service has on students, faculty, and communities.”

The research team of RaeLyn Axlund, WACC research and assessment director; Dr. Christine Cress, Portland State University associate professor; and Dr. Tanya Renner, Kapi’olani Community College professor developed the Faculty Engagement Survey as part of a larger community engagement research effort. Future community engagement surveys are planned to assess college students and community partners.

Established in 1992 and hosted at Western Washington University, Washington Campus Compact and its membership of 35 two- and four-year colleges and universities are committed to providing meaningful experiences for students to become active, engaged leaders in their communities, furthering the civic and public purposes of higher education and strengthening communities. WACC is an affiliate state office of Campus Compact, a national organization comprised of more than 1,100 higher education institutions committed to the civic and public purposes of higher education.