



# *Dialogue for Democracy*

*a statewide public forum connecting communities and education*

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## **Central Washington University Team Action Plan**

### **Team members:**

Lorinda Anderson, Director, Civic Engagement Office, Central Washington University  
Jan Bowers, Professor, Family & Consumer Sciences, Central Washington University  
Richard DeShields, Associate Director, University Housing and New Student Programs, Central Washington University  
Jerilyn McIntyre, President, Central Washington University  
Gretta Merwin, Superintendent, Ellensburg Public Schools  
Jennifer Richards, Student, Central Washington University

### **Communities to be impacted by team:**

City of Ellensburg, CWU campus community, Kittitas Valley

### **Issue focus:**

Using the topic of high risk drinking issues and alcohol abuse challenges, we hope to:

- Develop a *case study* that will address the issues of civic initiatives from multiple perspectives
- Develop/deepen community/institutional partnerships in the region
- Address educational and social support for diverse target audiences

### **Foundational Ideas from *Dialogue Preparatory Questionnaire*:**

*What pressing issues(s) in your community could be creatively and effectively addressed by the campus-school community partnership?*

Some pressing local issues that our team felt could be addressed by the campus-school-community partnership included:

- High risk drinking issues and alcohol abuse challenges
- Educational and social support for diverse target audiences

*What are some outcomes your team's partnership could possibly achieve with respect to this issue/these issues?*

To develop a master strategic plan that addressed the issues from multiple perspectives and meet regularly to ensure efforts are made to actualize the anticipated outcomes.

*What outcomes are you hoping to achieve through participation in the Dialogue for Democracy?*

As a direct result of the Dialogue for Democracy forum, we anticipate that our team will direct efforts that will:

- Develop a master plan for the strategic development of campus/community civic initiatives
- Create a more seamless structure for the coordination of service efforts
- Augment the web-based electronic service platform to incorporate the participation of community-based volunteers, organizations, and regional service sites
- Develop/deepen the region's community/institutional partnerships

### **Framework for action:**

- **Statement of Hope:**

We acknowledge that institutional change is a slow and difficult process – a long-term goal – but we are taking steps to move toward greater goals of community/institutional partnerships and civic initiatives in our community. We want to strengthen the community-CWU bond that will move us from discussion to implementation to ACTION.

- **Guiding Questions:**

Do we want to lay framework or create a model for tackling issues, or does it need to be more organic? Will a case study lead us slowly towards institutional change?

- **Key Spheres:**

*Underage, high-risk drinking, in both the Ellensburg High School and CWU communities.*

May 11: First steering committee met. Community action group decided to break out into three key issue teams, including education and product availability. The three issue teams will meet again June 15 for further discussion.

*Form advisory committee for civic engagement.*

What is it and what will it look like at CWU? What will it look like in Kittitas County? We need to hear the voice of community, students, faculty, and administrators—all partners. If we choose to use the Furco model as a framework, what does that look like for our team? Do we make adaptations/changes within the service-learning model? It has been recommended that we present the Furco model of Service-Learning to the Civic Engagement Advisory Committee at the September meeting as a benchmark assessment for where we are and where we want to go. June 7: First meeting to review forum responses, and look at where we go from here.

*Enhance the Faculty Fellows Program.*

This in order to include a civic engagement piece as part of professional development promotion and reward, which ideally will prove incentive for staff to include civic engagement in planned coursework. Faculty Fellow members have rated themselves using the Furco model, and have been provided with example syllabi of what civic engagement looks like integrated with coursework.

- **Time Frames:**

We will meet again June 3 to discuss Furco service-learning model as a potential framework for our strategic planning, and discuss further issues of underage drinking and the vision for civic engagement on CWU campus and in the greater community. Next year, an advisory committee will be addressing pressing issues using the designated framework established as a result of the Dialogue for Democracy team resolution.

\*During our June 3 meeting, we discussed this resolution, as well as brainstormed the following ideas. Having seen the model for a Civic Discourse class that will begin at WWU next year, the question was raised, Is this a direction in which we would like to move? President McIntyre suggested the idea of a Civic Responsibility general education course. The team agreed that there is potential for tying this topic in with our Univ. 109 Service Learning courses, where students discuss theory and then put it into practice. We also envisioned a “Civic Engagement Living Learning Community” in the future: a residence hall specifically for those who want to serve, such as we now have for education, healthy living, and the Douglas Honors College. A final idea was presented that we could adopt the theme of Civic Engagement for our 2005-06 Presidential Lecture Series. The individuals brought to campus that year would all speak on topics of civic responsibility and engagement. Information will be discussed with Libby Street, Executive Assistant to the President, who coordinates such events.