

ANNOUNCING...

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT,
PUBLIC WORK AND PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING
NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**

**Thursday-Friday, November 5-6, 2009
The Dupont Hotel
Washington, DC**

**This symposium is part of Bringing Theory to Practice,
sponsored by the Charles Engelhard Foundation and developed in
partnership with the Association of American Colleges and Universities**

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, PUBLIC WORK AND PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

PURPOSE

The purpose of the symposium is to assess the effects and affects of civic engagement and public work on the psychosocial well-being of college students. Participants will exchange information and ideas from their expertise and experiences; build a national learning community among researchers, educators, and institutional leaders; and contribute to a field of practice and subject of study.

BACKGROUND

"Civic engagement" refers to a range of activities in which college students participate in public and community work, including political advocacy and community organizing, in addition to direct service and community-based learning and research experiences which enable engagement. We believe that civic engagement can contribute to personal growth, emotional health, social development, and psychosocial well-being.

Civic engagement and public work are especially important for college students, especially at the time when too many of them are disengaged from the learning process and civil society. However, empirical evidence of these effects – and their implications for practice and research - is scarce.

Psychosocial well-being refers, at a minimum, to the presence of characteristics that typify aspects of positive mental health, such as a sense of direction, personal growth and fulfillment, social development, empathy, perspective-taking, and psychological flourishing.

Bringing Theory to Practice (BTtoP) was established to encourage the relationships among engaged learning, civic development, and psychosocial well-being. The project has a lengthy list of activities and accomplishments, including financial support of over 120 colleges and universities since 2004.

PARTICIPANTS

This symposium will bring together researchers, educators, practitioners and others with experience and expertise, including representatives of institutions that have received BTtoP funding to date. Because the purpose is to develop knowledge, all participants will be expected to bring information from their experience or expertise, whether an example, case study, or empirical evidence from qualitative or quantitative observation or research.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The symposium advisory committee includes:

- Bernard S. Arons, Medical Director, St. Elizabeths Hospital
- Lawrence Bacow, President, Tufts University
- Robert Blum, William H. Gates Sr. Professor of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University
- Richard Celeste, President, Colorado College
- Barry Checkoway, Professor of Social Work and Professor of Urban Planning, University of Michigan, Director, BTtoP Demonstration Site Program
- Sally Engelhard Pingree, Trustee, Charles Engelhard Foundation, President, S. Engelhard Center
- Ashley Finley, National Evaluator, BTtoP, Director of Assessment for Learning, AAC&U
- Connie Flanagan, Professor, Pennsylvania State University
- Richard Guarasci, President, Wagner College
- Donald W. Harward, Director, BTtoP, President Emeritus, Bates College
- Caryn McTighe Musil, Senior Vice President, Office of Diversity, Equity and Global Initiatives, AAC&U
- David Scobey, Professor and Director, Harvard Center for Community Partnerships, Bates College
- Sarena Seifer, Senior Consultant, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
- Daniel Silverman, Vice President and Chief Medical Officer Sinai Hospital and LifeBridge, Baltimore, MD.

DATES AND LOCATION

The symposium will begin on November 5 at 10 am and end on November 6 at 4 pm. It will be held at the Dupont Hotel, 1500 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC.

TRAVEL GRANTS

BTtoP will offer up to 20 travel grants (1 per institution) of up to \$500. Travel grants are conditional upon an e-mail application to Jennifer O'Brien at obrien@aacu.org, and preference will be given to participants travelling from the longest distances.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

As a parallel initiative, funding proposals are requested for projects that strengthen and sustain the relationship between college students' civic development and their psychosocial well-being. ***Please note this is not a request for conference papers or presentations, but an announcement of funding from the BTtoP Project for grants.***

Proposals are invited for (1) Mini-grants up to \$2,500; (2) Program or Research Initiative Grants up to \$10,000; and (3) Demonstration Site Grants up to \$75,000 per year for two years, totaling \$150,000. Demonstration Site proposals are due January 15, 2010, whereas other proposals have their own due dates.

The November symposium will include a special information session on the RFP. Attendance at this session is not required for applicants. For more information and to download a copy of the RFP, see the BTtoP website:

http://www.aacu.org/bringing_theory/index.cfm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jennifer O'Brien at obrien@aacu.org or Barry Checkoway at barrych@umich.edu