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Town and Gown: First Steps in a Campus-Community Civic Engagement Partnership for Deliberative Democracy Forums

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Town and Gown:
First Steps in a Campus-
Community Civic Engagement
Partnership for Deliberative
Democracy Forums

Chad Kahl
Illinois State University
Milner Library
June 4, 2011



ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Illinois' first public university

Campus

Residential comprehensive
university

Began as a teacher's college

Nearly 19K FTE

American Democracy Project

Be Enlightened, Be
Empowered,
Be Engaged

Civic engagement is one of five
core values in campus
strategic plan

Living Democracy Project of B-N

- Community group located in Bloomington-Normal, IL started in early 2000's
- Received Deliberative Democracy training
- Forums
 - End of Life - Fall 2009
 - Political Partisanship - Spring 2010
 - Illinois Budget - Fall 2010
 - Mission of Public Schools - Spring 2011



Goals

Collaboration between ISU ADP/PEP and LDP

Get more involvement from campus

- Especially students
- Curricular integration

Event

Held at the ISU student union on April 4, 2011

Coordinated by LDP and paid for by PEP/ADP

Had nearly 40 attendees - almost exclusively from community

Press coverage

- Community AM radio station, WJBC - [story](#)
- Community newspaper, *The Pantagraph* - [story](#)

Accomplishments

- Successful event
- Utilized National Issues Forum material for the first time
- Campus participation
 - Two faculty members agreed to be moderators

Challenges

- Campus participation
 - No new student involvement
 - Was not incorporated into any course curriculum
- Timing and location
 - First weekday night event
 - Community concerns
- Still would like to develop stronger relationships between ISU ADP/PEP and LDP

Additional Information

ISU American Democracy Project

- <http://americandemocracy.illinoisstate.edu/>

Living Democracy Project of Bloomington-Normal

- www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_196885327024466

National Issues Forum

- <http://www.nifi.org/>

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