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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
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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