

Abundant Great Civic Learning Practice—But What are Our Guiding Purposes?

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“The struggle is a never-ending process. Freedom is never really won. You earn it and win it in every generation.”

— Coretta Scott King

Session Overview

- ★ The CLDE Coalition – Connecting College Learning with Democracy’s Difficult Challenges
- ★ For Discussion – a New Draft Framework for College Civic and Democratic Learning
- ★ Next Steps – Educators and Policy Leaders Working Together and With You, to Accelerate the College Civic Learning Movement

CLDE Coalition

The **Civic Learning and Democracy Engagement Coalition** (CLDE Coalition) includes education and policy organizations committed to making civic learning for an engaged democracy a priority across higher education and in public policy.

www.collegeciviclearning.org



- There already IS abundant great practice in college civic learning – across all sectors.
- But only some students participate.
- The Coalition now seeks to expand our reach and make college civic learning inclusive and high impact.

The **CLDE Coalition** also is working with 70+ additional organizations—including UVA’s Karsh Institute of Democracy, AASCU, Bonner, BTtoP, NASH, a new Multi-State System Collaborative, and all seven institutional accreditors. Our shared purpose: building strategic educator policy **initiatives to make college civic learning inclusive – for all students.**



Working Together to Expand the College Civic Learning Movement

*Imagine if every college student
devoted time and talent to
democracy's future!*

Working Together, We CAN Step Forward—
Reclaim Higher Education's Long History
of Public Good and Democracy Mission;
Braid 21st Century Civic Purposes and
Practices into Students' College Pathways
and Programs

Coalition Collaborations: Current Work with Policy Influencers to Accelerate the College Civic Learning Movement

- New Research on What Students Gain from Civic Learning
- A Multi-State Collaborative—Two and Four-Year Systems
- Civic Learning Leadership from Accrediting Commissions

CLDE Collaborations In the Making:

- Cross-walks with the K-12 Educating for American Democracy Roadmap in History and Civics
- Collaborations with Deliberative Dialogues/Free Inquiry Initiatives
- Broadening the Meanings of “Student Success”

As We Work to Accelerate the College Civic Learning Movement Across the U.S. and With Multiple Coalition Partners and Initiatives,

▶ ▶ **The Critical Next Step is:**

Clarifying Our Guiding Purposes



What Is Civic Learning for an Engaged Democracy

The CLDE Coalition's Question to YOU—

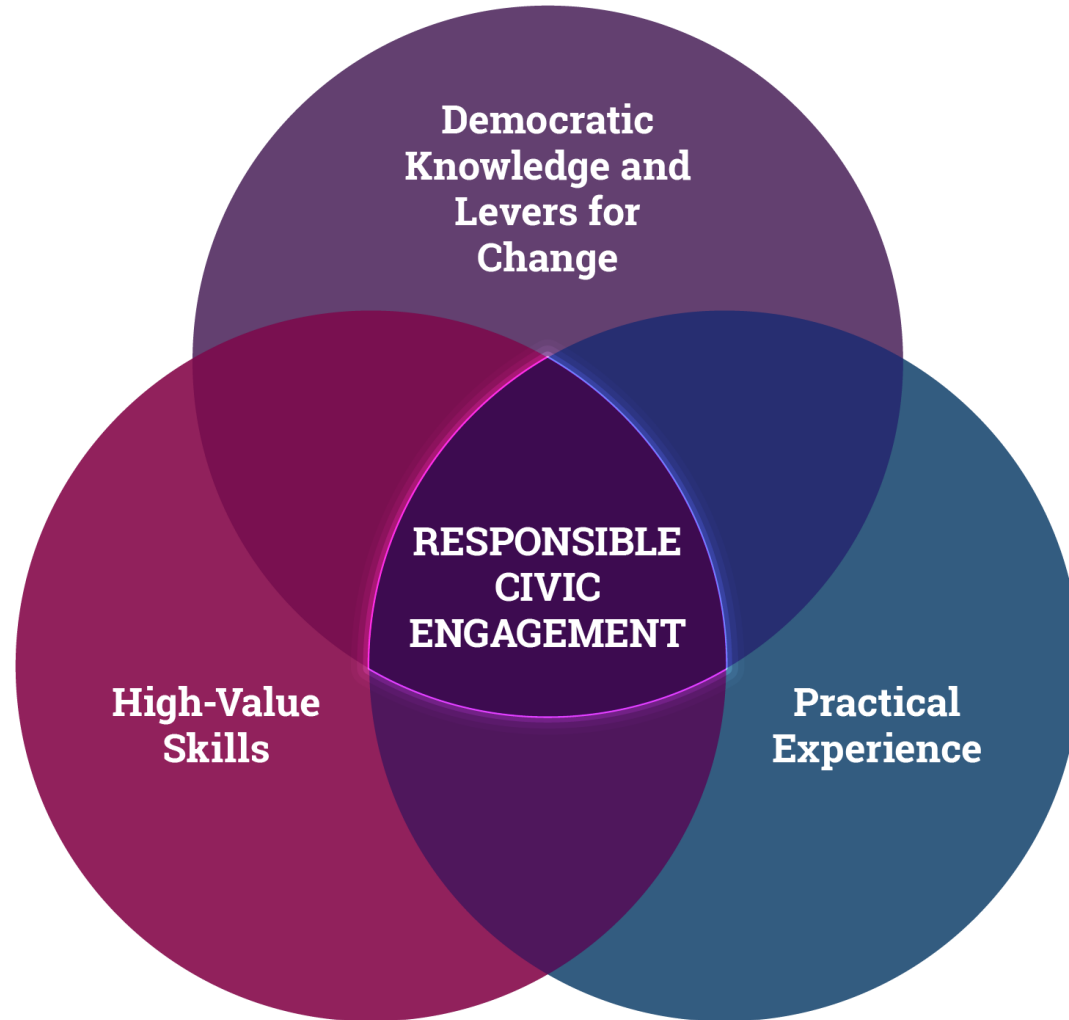
Do you already have a strong framework for college civic and (small d) democratic learning?

If yes, **please share a link in the chat.** We want to learn from your work....

College Civic Learning for an Engaged Democracy: We Found Multiple Meanings Across Institutions....

- ★ Identity, Equity, Civic Purpose, Voice, Social Power
- ★ Courses on Constitutional Democracy, Core Texts
- ★ Action Projects: Service Learning and Other HIPS
- ★ Critical Skills: e.g., Productive Engagement Across Difference, Collaborative Problem-solving....

For Discussion: A Draft Framework for College Civic Learning



The Draft Framework Draws These Multiple Purposes Together

- ★ Students' own journeys stand at the center
- ★ Students reflect on their identities, experiences, societal roles, civic purpose
- ★ They make their own choices about civic engagement—in careers and civil society

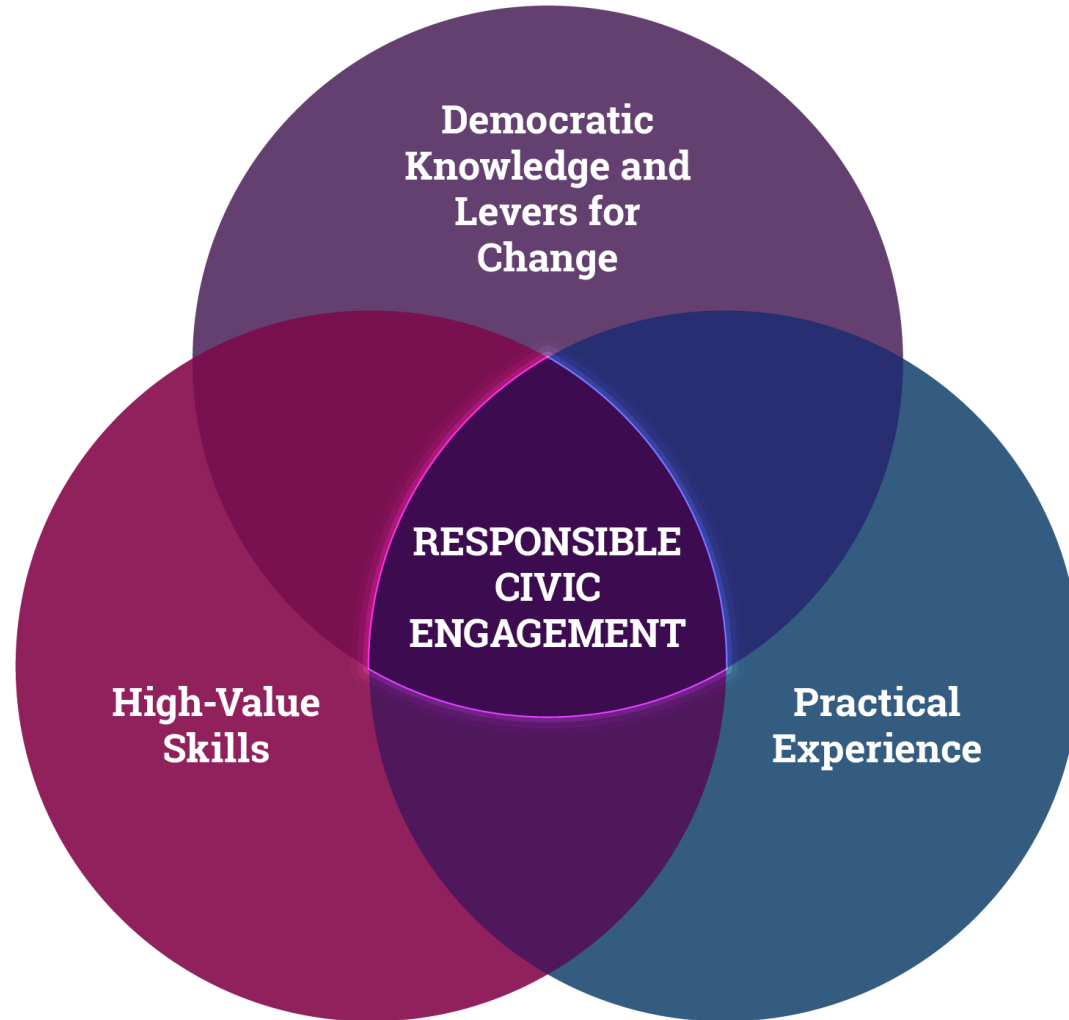
Democratic Knowledge and Levers for Change

- ★ Comparative constitutionalism, US and Global
- ★ Democratic principles and debates over their meaning and application; authoritarianism and anti-democracy movements; study of selected freedom movements
- ★ Levers for change – at diverse levels

Democratic Knowledge and Levers for Change

- ★ Democratic Knowledge Related to Students' Majors and Intended Careers
- ★ Policy and Equity Choices in Specific Fields: Health, Education, Technology, Business
- ★ Applied Learning Projects That Engage Students in Real-World Settings and Problem-Solving

A Draft Framework for College Civic Learning



Practical Experience

- ★ Students work on issues they care about
- ★ Research and/or action projects—for credit—with diverse community partners and organizations
- ★ Guided reflection – with others – to deepen student learning from their community-based work

High Value Skills—Practiced from First to Final Year Democracy necessities for this era, e.g.:

- ★ Productively engaging difference: intellectual, socio-cultural, political...
- ★ Deliberation and bridge-building with those who hold very different views
- ★ Working for equity and inclusion

High Value Skills—Practiced from First to Final Year Skills needed for life, work and democracy...

- ★ Critical inquiry; evidence-based reasoning
- ★ Collaborative problem-solving with diverse partners
- ★ Digital, media, and information literacy

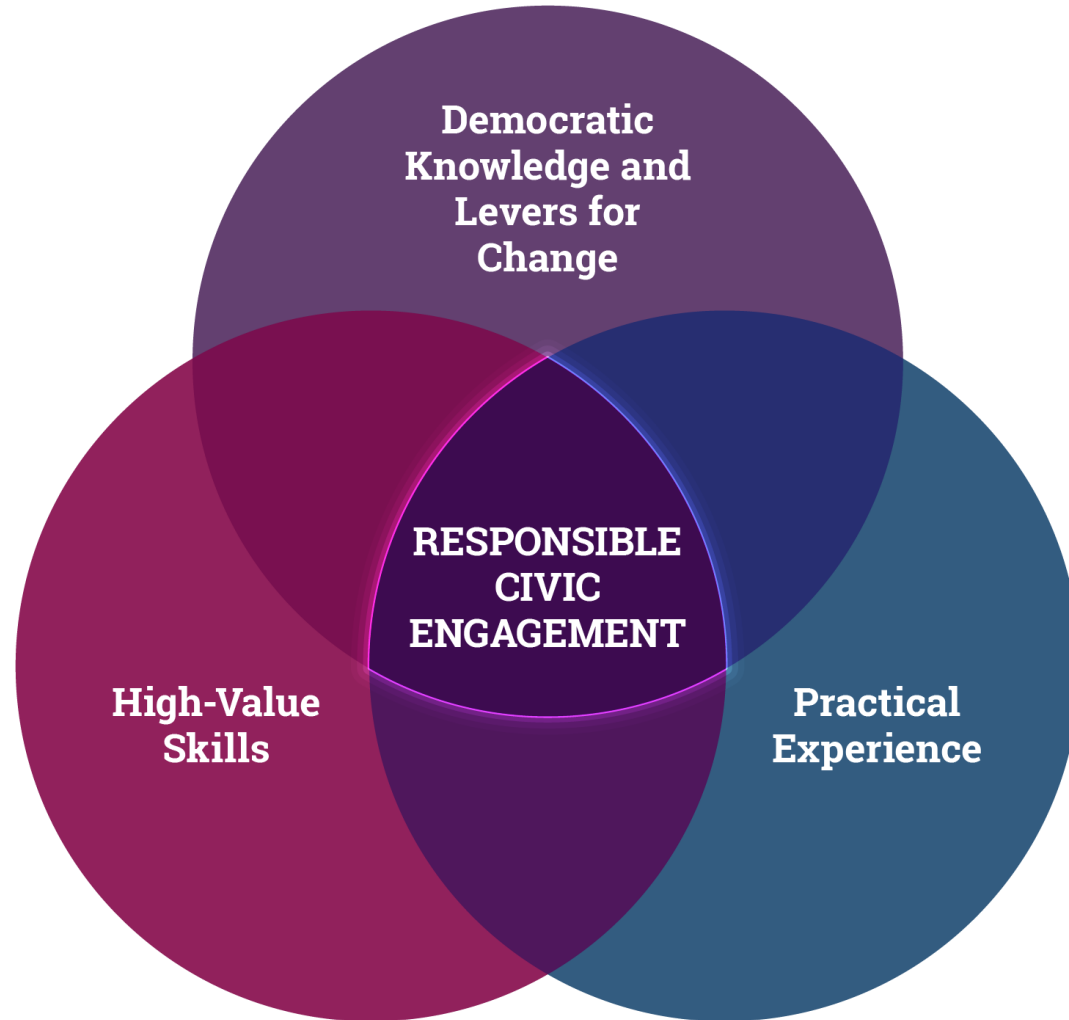
How and Where? Civic Inquiry in Students' Degree Plans

- ★ High impact civic learning takes **more than one course** or one civic inquiry project
- ★ Collaborative democratic mindsets are developed through practice—and guided reflection=
- ★ Spiraled civic learning pathways can provide the needed practice
- ★ Shared purpose; spiraled pathways, rich benefits.

How and Where? Civic Inquiry in Students' Degree Plans

- ★ First-year experiences, courses, and projects
- ★ General education sequences through final year
- ★ Majors—with emphasis on issues and projects related to students' intended careers
- ★ High-impact practices (research, diversity engagement, internships and practicums, etc)
- ★ E-Portfolios: students' civic learning over time

A Draft Framework for College Civic Learning



How to Comment on the Draft Framework

We invite your feedback on the draft framework!

We also want to know about civic learning frameworks you already find useful.

You can review the framework and submit your feedback at
www.collegeciviclearning.org/draft-framework

Accelerating the Movement: Next Steps

- Institutional Examples—Where all students participate
- The Multi-State Collaborative—Founding State Systems: MA, MD, VA, and UT - Other States to Come; Two- and Four-Year Institutions
- Accreditor Initiatives and More.....

Accelerating the Movement: Next Steps

The most important next steps:

Your own planning and action to expand and strengthen college civic learning for an engaged democracy within your institution, in your communities, and in partnership with K-12 history and civics reforms.

Accelerating the Movement: Next Steps

There will be four more College Civic Learning Forums:

- February 6-7: Virtual, Free; A deeper dive into the “how” of including all students. Resources for “bridge-building” within our institutions and in a divided democracy.
- Summer Institutes to Support Educator and Policy-Leader Action Planning– with AAC&U and SHEEO. www.collegeciviclearning.org
- October 19-21: The Educator-Policy Leader Summit at UVA



Thank you!

We'll see you February 6-7 for Forum #2:

**Bridging the Divides, Including All Students:
Diversity, Equity, and High-Impact Civic Learning Pathways**

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