



Listening Tour

Goals for the Listening Tour 2008

The 2008 Maine Campus Compact Listening Tour will serve to reinvigorate campuses involved with the movement for civic engagement within higher education, provide feedback and direction for Maine Campus Compact, and stimulate creative and strategic thought and leadership to emerge on campuses and in the network.

More specifically, MCC aims to:

- Provide campus stakeholders with a chance to reflect on their successes and to identify strategies for further development
- Recognize new leaders and build support on campuses for civic engagement.
- Build/renew/establish significant relationships for campus civic engagement
- Identify critical issues emerging in the field.
- Gather data and ideas for statewide and campus change efforts
- Offer additional campus-selected support from MCC staff to constituents during the tour visits.

Tour Activities

The primary element of the Listening Tour will be a visit to each campus by MCC staff. Visits will take place in September, October, November, and early December; the contents and timing of each visit will be determined in consultation with our primary contacts on the campus. Ideally, before the visit, the primary contacts will also complete a Milestone Report and send it to the MCC staff. (See more information below.)

After the campus visit, we will send participants a quick survey asking them to reflect a bit more on the work of civic engagement in Maine. The survey will take a few minutes at the most. We will also be looking for your reflections on the tour and would love to have any reflections submitted via e-mail to Liz McCabe Park at epark@bates.edu any time before December 2008.

You will receive updates on the progress of the Listening Tour via MCC List serves and the web site. Over the winter, Liz McCabe Park will write and distribute a piece about the tour and future directions for the work in the state.

Questions? Please Contact [Liz McCabe Park](mailto:Liz.McCabe.Park@bates.edu) at 207-786-8216 or epark@bates.edu

MILESTONE REPORT

We ask you to think about doing this before we come to campus and have it be part of the discussion while we are on campus.

Purpose of the Milestone Report

The purpose of the Milestone Report (MR) is *to document critical events, turning points, or milestones in the development of campus civic engagement efforts*. Leaders and partners in those efforts can then analyze the way their commitments and programming have evolved over time, and use those results to identify new or underutilized assets, opportunities, or strategies for continued growth and improvement. Maine Campus Compact is also collecting MRs to better understand and support the development of campus commitment to civic engagement statewide.

Who Should Complete the Report

At least one participant might have a “bird’s eye view” of campus civic engagement activities and history, but it is also extremely valuable to capture multiple perspectives.

How to Determine the Events to Include

One effective way to create the MR is to create a blank timeline and brainstorm items you think influenced the development of your civic engagement efforts. Consider your current civic engagement “landscape,” including infrastructure, programs, leadership, supporters, status, etc. How did you get where you are now? What factors contributed over the years to the development of civic engagement at your campus? Once the timeline is created, think through the items listed in chronological order, noting in more detail what happened and why it was important. Add any events that come to mind along the way.

Some *pivotal types of events* might include:

- * Professional positions created
- * Positions/programs elevated in status
- * Grants received
- * Funding changes/new sources
- * Institutional funding/support
- * Important committees formed
- * Key partnerships formed
- * New leadership
- * Infrastructure created/altered
- * Important events/pronouncements
- * Philosophical changes/foundations
- * Key professional development experiences

These are but a few ideas—there may be many other significant types of events in your own history. Your events may be as “old” as the founding of your institution grounded in a mission that influences campus priorities to this day, or as recent as a development from this past year.

How to Format the Report

MRs can be formatted in many ways. We suggest you create a *header* at the top of the page with your campus name and the date of the report, and in the *body of the report* list milestone events in chronological order. Each item should include the date (approximate is fine), a brief title, and a short description. Be descriptive in writing about each event and why it is important. Include as many or few events as you choose. The following is an example of how to format one event:

1999 **Hired first community service coordinator.** A combination of grant and temporary campus funds allowed us to hire a 10-month position to coordinate a new service-learning program. The coordinator was housed in student affairs and was responsible for working with faculty and community organizations to develop ongoing projects. The success of this position led to increased support for the program and, two years later, permanent institutional funding for the position.

CAMPUS VISIT

We will be looking to talk to a variety of constituencies while we are on campus. We value your advice and know that each campus is different, so we are looking forward to talking with you to see how best to conduct the site visit. At each campus, we would like to ask the following questions:

- Of the President and Chief Academic Officer:
 - What are your biggest success stories?
 - What are you First – Best – Only at? (What do you consider your campus' distinctive strengths?)
 - What people exemplify your efforts across campus and in the community?
 - What motivates your campus to support this work? Where do you get the most attention?
 - What are the emerging issues that will likely impact your students? Your campus? Your local communities (or those communities with which you work)?
 - What are the next steps for this movement in Maine?
 - What is your view of the network? What are its strengths, and what more could it be?
 - How can we recognize members' great work in ways that add value for you?
 - What other comments or feedback would you like to share with us?

- Of campus leaders participating in a group meeting:
 - What are your biggest success stories?
 - What are you First – Best – Only at? (What do you consider your campus' distinctive strengths?)
 - What motivates your campus to support this work? Where do you get the most attention?
 - What are the emerging issues that will likely impact your students? Your campus? Your local communities (or those communities with which you work)?
 - What are you not doing that you want to do? What challenges/barriers keep you from doing that now?
 - What do you want to stop doing, and why?
 - What are the next steps for this movement in Maine?
 - What is your view of the network? What are its strengths, and what more could it be?
 - What makes you come and stay connected?
 - How can we recognize members' great work in ways that add value for you?
 - What other comments or feedback would you like to share with us?

- Of the primary contact:
 - What people exemplify your efforts across campus and in your community?
 - How do you stay renewed in your work?
 - Who pays your membership dues? How is membership viewed and used?
 - What other comments or feedback would you like to share with us?