

# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

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Civic engagement is defined as working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes.

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## VISION

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A campus community equipped and committed to advancing the public good.

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## MISSION

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The Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning connects students, faculty, staff, alumni, and local, national, and global communities by providing educationally meaningful opportunities for all forms of civic engagement to cultivate the knowledge, skills, values, and motivations needed to create a more engaged University and to advance the public good.

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## CORE VALUES

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The work of the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning heavily emphasizes Illinois State University's core value of Civic Engagement and affirms the other core values as stated in *Educate Connect Elevate: Illinois State—The Strategic Plan for Illinois' First Public University 2018–2023*:

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- **Learning and Scholarship**—We value the connections between civic engagement, learning, and scholarship.
- **Diversity and Inclusion**—We value civic engagement as a way to explore privilege, oppression, and social identities to advance equity and inclusion.
- **Respect**—We value the voices of communities and individuals and their contributions to civic engagement.
- **Collaboration**—We value mutually beneficial and reciprocal partnerships across the campus and communities.
- **Individualized Attention**—We value the needs and contributions of individuals as they explore their passions and learn to advance the public good.
- **Integrity**—We value using our knowledge and skills to make positive contributions to communities.

# STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

## GOAL 1: Strengthen Infrastructure

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Expand and enhance University infrastructure to support Illinois State's core value of civic engagement across the campus and community.

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STRATEGY 1: Evaluate center staffing structure and physical space to ensure adequate capacity to support center and institutional civic engagement endeavors.

STRATEGY 2: Purposefully integrate the American Democracy Project/Political Engagement Project and the Civic Engagement and Responsibility Minor into center operations and functions.

STRATEGY 3: Explore external funding models and partnerships to support civic engagement initiatives.

STRATEGY 4: Foster a culture of civic engagement throughout the University.

STRATEGY 5: Cultivate a culture of information sharing with and through the center by way of a thoughtfully designed data and assessment plan for civic engagement.

## GOAL 2: Transform the Student Experience

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Work with faculty and staff to transform Illinois State University's ability to educate students who understand civic engagement as a lifelong responsibility by providing new and enhanced opportunities for civic development.

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STRATEGY 1: Collaborate with colleges, departments, schools, and units across campus to explore opportunities for the systemic integration of civic engagement within curriculum.

STRATEGY 2: Explore opportunities, partnerships, and need for additional co-curricular programming to enhance student civic engagement.

STRATEGY 3: Support the development and integration of civically and community-engaged courses and designations.

## GOAL 3: Foster Faculty/Staff Engagement

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Bolster Illinois State University's core value of Civic Engagement by establishing its place in the everyday work of faculty and staff.

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STRATEGY 1: Support, cultivate, and recognize engaged scholarship.

STRATEGY 2: Encourage civic engagement among faculty and staff throughout all four divisions of the University.

## GOAL 4: Embrace our Redbird Impact

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Embrace Illinois State's identity as an anchor institution participating in shared problem-solving with communities.

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STRATEGY 1: Collaborate within Illinois State University, across local higher education institutions, and throughout the community to cohesively address issues/needs of communities.

STRATEGY 2: Create and sustain community-campus partnerships that are focused on mutual benefit, reciprocity, and co-production of knowledge.