

The State University of New York at Fredonia is a selective, residential liberal arts university in western New York, with approximately 5,000 full-time undergraduates and 400 graduate students. Most students live on or near campus, and the arts and cultural programs on campus are at the center of a vibrant campus life. SUNY Fredonia, known for quality academic programs and a student-centered approach to education, is ranked seventh nationally for its four-year graduation rates. SUNY Fredonia awards baccalaureate and master's degrees in the liberal arts and sciences, creative and performing arts, a range of interdisciplinary programs, and selected professional fields. Strong undergraduate teaching, including an emphasis on engaging undergraduate students in research and creative activity, is a commitment of SUNY Fredonia. The campus is in a charming, culturally rich Western New York village on Lake Erie between Buffalo, NY and Erie, PA.

The mission statement includes these commitments to public engagement: "to develop and support service to individuals and organizations beyond the campus" and "encouraging faculty and staff to contribute their expertise to the variety of community-based endeavors." In the next review and revision of the mission statement, emphasis on public engagement is likely to be more explicit. The university is using the criteria for Carnegie Community Engagement classification as a blueprint for providing the infrastructure needed to support this commitment.

There are several initiatives underway that relate to these efforts:

- 1) **Policy Revision.** SUNY Fredonia is in the second year of an extensive effort to revise the policies that guide the processes and criteria for reappointment, continuing appointment (tenure), and promotion. A task force spent a year researching models and engaging faculty in discussions and focus groups; senior academic administrators are currently finalized the resulting document, which will be discussed by the University Senate this semester. The drafts include definitions of appropriate scholarship for a regional, public university, and scholarship of engagement is included for the first time. The document will also include examples of engaged scholarship and suggestions for documentation and evaluation of such work.
- 2) **Service Learning.** SUNY Fredonia has an active and effective Volunteer Services Office, which engages many students in contributing their time to local agencies and organizations. The academic component, however, is not visible. Although the university has many examples of service learning across departments, there is no infrastructure to support such efforts. The goal is that by Fall 2009, two faculty will be named as Co-Directors of Service Learning, and the semester course offerings include a service learning option for all courses, at the instructor's discretion. The university is also submitting an application for a federal Learn and Serve grant, which would assist in developing and encouraging these efforts.
- 3) **Professional Development.** In June 2008, SUNY Fredonia established a Professional Development Center, with a full-time Director responsible for program development across the range of faculty and staff work. In its first semester of operation, the PDC offered more than fifty workshops, training sessions, brown-bag lunches, and other events. At the Teaching and Learning Conference in September 2008, Harry Boyte, author of *The Citizen Solution*, gave the keynote address. There are many opportunities for faculty and staff development related to public engagement, and workshops, book clubs, and a learning community for 2009-10 are all under discussion.