



Southwest Minnesota State University

Division of Student Affairs

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Center for Civic & Community Engagement
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DEPARTMENTAL MISSION

In support of the SMSU Mission, the Center for Civic & Community Engagement connects academic programs with community needs to use scholarship and action for the mutual benefit of the University, its communities, and its diverse peoples. The Center serves as the intersection between student learning, faculty research, and community engagement. It is committed to illuminating the variety of ways in which SMSU strives to make civic and community engagement integral to learning experiences campus-wide.

GOALS

Develop Civic Awareness. Students will recognize themselves as a member of a larger social fabric and considers social problems to be at least partly their own.

Integrate Civic Responsibility. Students will see the moral and civic dimensions of issues, to make and justify informed moral and civic judgments, and to take action when appropriate.

Connect to Available Resources. Students will make use of resources available to them and determine which items are best suited. Students will also recommend improvements to resources.

Student Learning Outcomes Targeted:

1. **Connect to Available Resources.** Students will make use of resources available to them and determine which items are best suited. Students will also recommend improvements to resources.

POINTS OF PRIDE

- **MustangsVolunteer (powered by Handshake):** In academic year 2020-2021, SMSU discontinued its use of MustangsVolunteer (powered by Galaxy Digital) and transitioned to post volunteer opportunities in Handshake and service learning/community based learning in Handshake (Experiences module). Posting volunteer opportunities in the systems continues to be successful and an external feed is located on the [MustangsVolunteer website](#). The Experiences module was utilized to track service learning for one course in the fall and one in the spring of that year. The tool was effective for that purpose. The faculty member who piloted was on sabbatical during the 2021-2022 academic year and Experiences was not used during that time. There was

interest in utilizing and efforts will be made for 2022-2023 to use the feature more broadly.

- **Part-Time Job & Volunteer Fair:** 24 employers and approximately 70 students attended the 15th annual event. Employer registration was advertised through the Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce and direct emails. Student registration was advertised in a variety of ways including postcards to students living in Residence Halls, posters, emails, and social media. Nonprofit organizations were encouraged to share volunteer roles in addition to paid roles at the job fair.
- **Mustang Market.** This was the first academic year without a VISTA working on capacity building and processes. After a VISTA project concludes, it is time for the site to continue the project without the aid of a VISTA. Overall, the year went really well. Mustang Market oversight, planning, and administration was completed by the director. Many tasks were also given to the graduate assistant. Please see graduate assistant accomplishments below for more detail. Mustang Market dates in 2021-2022 were by appointment. Appointments were 5 students to a 15 minute time slot and a lot of flexibility was given for early/late students and walk-ups. Students were also able to make individual appointments if the market day did not fit their schedule. Individual appointments were nominal and were less than five per month. Students shopped through the market. The timeslots were to ensure that students do not have to wait too long to get in and out for shopping. Reusable SMSU tote bags were given to students and students were encouraged to bring back each month. Plastic bags were also available. There were also fewer COVID restrictions for the market this year. However, masks continued to be required on-campus for the majority of the academic year.
 - Mustang Market continues to be a Second Harvest Heartland (part of the Feeding America Network) agency partner and completed our first site visit to check-in for quality assurance.
 - Funding for stocking the shelves comes entirely through donations from faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members. SMSU students donated \$1999.40 worth of dining dollars to Mustang Market since the beginning of 2021. Support for Mustang Market has been overwhelming positive and donations both monetary and physical have been abundant. Mustang Market has benefited from crowdfunding campaigns, fundraising event partnerships (Pedal for a Purpose with the YMCA), individual donations of time and products, employee payroll donations, and an endowment.
 - Mustang Market was designated to received HEERF funding. In 2021-2022, this funding was used to cover the cost of the graduate assistant since the primary duties for that role were related to Mustang Market. Plans are being made for using the funds for 2022-2023 as the deadline was extended to June 30, 2023.
- **Nutrition Network.** Nutrition Network has continued to meet monthly and has served as an ad hoc advisory group of volunteers. Input from the group has been invaluable in shaping the Mustang Market and navigating changes to the service. They will continue to be a valued source of feedback and suggestions.
- **Constitution Day Programming.** Constitution Day was Friday, September 17, 2021 and programming was held Tuesday, September 14-Monday, September 20. Programming included, a Constitution display, the McFarland Library had the Constitution (in book form) and other library resources related to the Constitution on display. The CCCE had a Constitution Day window display and pocket-sized Constitutions and U.S. Constitution Crossword Puzzles available to be picked up.

- **Mustangs Give: SMSU Day of Service.** SMSU hosted its first annual Mustangs Give: SMSU Day of Service on Wednesday, October 6, 2021. A committee was formed to put together ideas for the first event. Projects were secured all over Marshall for volunteers to participate. In total, 250 volunteers participated (151 students, 99 faculty/staff). The event will become an annual event held during Homecoming week each year. It is an opportunity for our Mustang Family to volunteer and give back to the communities that we are proud to be a part. Our communities support us in many ways so this is just one opportunity for us to reach out and say thank you during our Homecoming week festivities.
- **Voter Education and Engagement.** Academic year 2021-2022 was not an election year and as such there were no election engagement fellows like 2020-2021. In 2020-2021, SMSU was selected to host two [Campus Election Engagement Project](#) Student Fellows for fall 2020. The fellows received a \$1,000 stipend for their work for the semester supporting election engagement efforts at SMSU. The fellows were well-received by campus and their peers. The CCCE director has continued to participate in meetings for the MN Student Voting Coalition and hopes to have student fellows for midterm elections in fall 2022.
- **MN & IA Campus Compact Presidents' Awards and Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellow.** Each year, member campus recognize special achievements on campus and in community with the annual Iowa & Minnesota Campus Compact Awards. Iowa & Minnesota Campus Compact Presidents' Awards recognize outstanding contributions in civic and community engagement by students, faculty, staff, collaborative teams, and community organizations. The CCCE director organizes the nomination process at SMSU by gathering nominations and submitted them to the Office of President to be chosen by President Jayasuriya. Recipients are recognized at an annual award event. The 2022 event was held virtually. 2022 award winners are listed below.
 - [Presidents' Student Leadership Award: Isatu Shirek](#)
Isatu Shirek's work and dedication as an intern with the Women's Foundation of Minnesota and with Pioneer Public Television modeled deep commitment to civic responsibility and leadership. She has worked to create and have aired two short pieces that promote positive change in rural communities, shining a light on gender and racial equity and the importance of mental health as a tool for resilience when facing adversity.
 - [Presidents' Community Partner Award: Marshall Public Schools](#)
Marshall Public Schools has been a constant support to the SMSU School of Education and the Placement and Licensure Office. MPS administration, staff and teachers consistently provide a professional learning environment for over 100 clinical experience placements for SMSU Teacher Candidates on a yearly basis, making them our largest E-12 partner. The Covid-19 pandemic has hit E-12 education especially hard and it would have been easy for MPS to not accept our students for placements. However, through the pandemic the MPS has recognized the importance of our partnership and have continued to open their classrooms to our SMSU Teacher Candidates.
 - [Presidents' Civic Engagement Leadership Award: Dr. May Lee Moua-Vue](#)
Dr. May Lee Moua-Vue is leading the Center for International Education (CIE) in a new and exciting direction. By hosting weekly International Coffee Hours, she has engaged not only the SMSU community with international students but the surrounding Marshall community. She had re-envisioned the annual international

food event and expanded it to become WorldFest, a collaborative festival between the city of Marshall and local organizations to include not only SMSU's international students but local diversity present within southwest Minnesota including the Native American, Hmong, Latino, Somali communities.

- **Newman Civic Fellows-**
 - 2021-2022- Carter McLaughlin-
https://www.smsu.edu/today/articles/2021/05-12-2021_mclaughlin.html
 - 2022-2023- submitted Ariet Cham-
https://www.smsu.edu/today/articles/2022/03-09-2022_cham.html
- **Center for Civic & Community Engagement Advisory Group.** All work at the Center is guided by SMSU's Civic Action Plan and an interdisciplinary campus Advisory Group for Civic and Community Engagement, regularly affiliating with Student Affairs staff and community partners in the development of programs and delivery of services. The group continued to meet monthly during the academic year on the 3rd Friday of the month at 3pm and provided helpful guidance and ideas for the CCCE.

Graduate Assistant Accomplishments:

- As this was the first year Mustang Market did not have a VISTA overseeing the project, many duties related to the Mustang Market were transitioned to the CCCE director and graduate assistant. The GA duties are noted below and significant focus was given to Mustang Market instead of focusing on other CCCE projects. The GA was new this year and did a great job learning the role.
- **Mustang Market:** Completed inventory for Mustang Market, received Second Harvest order and donations, reviewed Second Harvest order, stocked items from order and donations, kept user spreadsheet updated, compiled monthly market surveys, and organized new user forms.

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES 2021-2022

Program 1

Students will access Mustang Market as needed and choose which food and resource items they need. Students will estimate how much the Mustang Market saves them on food/resources and how long the items will last them.

Select the LEP outcome(s) that is most accurately represented:

- Communicate effectively.
- Be creative thinkers able to identify, formulate, and solve problems using interdisciplinary perspectives.
- Be critical thinkers who evaluate information wisely and examine how assumptions and positions are shaped.
- Understand both physical and social aspects of the world and their place in it.
- Embrace the similarities among peoples and appreciate the diversity that enriches the human experience.
- Analyze moral judgments and engage in moral discourse.
- Practice responsible citizenship in their local and global communities.

<p>X Other (Non-LEP Outcome Based)- Connect to Available Resources. Students will make use of resources available to them and determine which items are best suited. Students will also recommend improvements to resources.</p>
<p>Methods and Measures</p> <p>Method. Organized monthly Mustang Market distributions during the 2021-2022 academic year. Measures. Students were asked to fill out a brief survey after each market day. See attachments.</p>
<p>Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results were quantified based on the multiple-choice format. The results were positive from whether or not the food and resource pantry was beneficial student basic needs. Students also estimate how much the Mustang Market saves them on food/resources and how long the items will last them. • Qualitative feedback was gathered for comments and suggestions. • Verbal feedback indicates that most student view Mustang Market as a valuable resource.
<p>Conclusions / Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Mustang Market distributions are very successful based on the responses from the surveys and conversations with students on each market day. • With overwhelming positive responses from the surveys and conversations, Mustang Market will be continued in the future and changes will be made based on suggestions from the survey feedback.

Plans for the Upcoming Year

Director of Career Services and the Center for Civic & Community Engagement, Melissa Scholten, will continue in her role for the 2022-2023 academic year. Plans are in place to shift Mustang Market duties to the Coordinator of Accessibility Services role. All other CCCE duties will remain with Scholten. Graduate assistant, Aditya Harsono, will continue his role. The office plans to continue many of the services currently offered and will assess the effectiveness of each during the 2022-2023 academic year. Specific plans are outlined in the sections below.

Electronic Resources:

- MustangsVolunteer (powered by Handshake) will continue to be promoted and shared across campus. Work will also continue to be done to train and support programs and faculty who would like to track service learning and/or internships using the Experiences module.
- Identify ways to streamline service learning.

Events/Programming:

- Assess effectiveness of current events (Part-Time Job & Volunteer Fair, Mustangs Give SMSU Day of Service, Constitution Day programming, voter engagement/education) and increase student/nonprofit organization attendance and student/faculty/staff participation.

- The CCCE director has continued to participate in meetings for the MN Student Voting Coalition and hopes to have student fellows for midterm elections in fall 2022.
- One of the goals in the CCCE for 2022-2023 is to continue to increase food security at SMSU. We will continue to work with Nutrition Network monthly and have identified a few priorities to explore and implement this year. One is working on a “food swipes” meal donation program available with Chartwells (SMSU Campus Dining). We had hoped to make progress on this project this year, but put conversations on hold for a variety of reasons. We would also like to begin exploring food scholarships at SMSU. These would be in addition to the Student Success Grants already available. Additionally, we would like to explore engaging activities such as the cooking course facilitated by Chartwells that was held during a Mustang Market day in fall 2019.
- Identify food insecurity presentations and programming.
- Learn more about Hunger Free School designation and work towards application.
- Continue to formally and informally assess and improve Mustang Market distributions for efficiency and dignity for student users.
- Identify ways to connect Mustang Market data to aggregate retention numbers.

Marketing/Publications:

- Continue to work closely with Marketing and Communications for Mustang Market materials including small calendar handouts.
- Create and publish a CCCE student quick guide.

Campus Collaborations:

- Continue current faculty and staff department collaborations and continue to foster new partnerships for faculty and staff engagement.
- Create annual report to share with campus community- faculty, departments, etc.

Submitted by Melissa Scholten- 8.3.23

Supporting Documents-

Attachment A- ***Mustang Market Monthly Usage Statistics***

Attachment B- ***Mustang Market- Sample Postcard Survey Response- September 2021***

Attachment A- ***Mustang Market Monthly Usage Statistics***

2021-2022 Mustang Market Dates: 9/15, 10/13, 11/17, 12/15, 1/19, 2/16, 3/16, 4/20

- 9/15- Mustang Market- 71 students; 1023.6 lbs ~ 14.42 lbs/student
- 10/13- Mustang Market- 68 students; 945.8 lbs ~13.9 lbs/student
- 11/17- Mustang Market- 69 students; 1049.5 lbs ~15.2 lbs/student
- 12/15- Mustang Market- 35 students; 487.6 lbs ~ 13.9 lbs/student
- 1/19- Mustang Market- 55 students; 892.9 lbs ~ 16.23 lbs/student
- 2/16- Mustang Market- 56 students; 825.5 lbs ~ 14.74 lbs/student
- 3/16- Mustang Market- 60 students; 818.4 lbs ~ 13.64 lbs/student
- 4/20- Mustang Market- 48 students; 644.3 lbs ~ 13.42 lbs/student

Attachment B- *Mustang Market- Sample Postcard Survey Response- September 2021*

How much did the Mustang Market Save you?	Total	Percentage
\$0-\$5	0	0%
\$5-\$10	1	1%
\$10-\$15	8	11%
\$15-\$20	39	56%
More?	22	31%
Total	70	
How long will these items help sustain you?	Total	Percentage
1-3 days	1	1%
3-5 days	1	1%
1 week	10	14%
More than 1 week	58	83%
Total	70	
What best describes you?	Total	Percentage
Traditional Student	41	59%
Non-traditional student	3	4%
Transfer student	5	7%
Veteran student	0	0%
International student	21	30%
Grad student	0	0%
Other		
Total	70	
How did you hear about today's Mustang Market?	Total	Percentage
Poster	26	37%
Social Media	14	20%
Word of mouth	16	23%
Class announcement	14	20%
Total	70	
Is this your first time using the Mustang Market?	Total	Percentage
Yes	45	64%
No	25	36%
Total	70	
Where do you live?	Total	Percentage
On campus	45	64%
Off campus	25	36%
Total	70	
Notes	Suggestions	General Comments
	Maybe fruits or Veggies	Toileteries are helpful
	Snacks: chips, goldfish etc.	You guys offered what we need
	Microwaveable foods	Mustang Market is really helpful
	Varieties of pasta sauces	The cleaning products are helpful
	More rice meal options	Great selection!
	Coffee ground or beans	Great items are the winter gears
	Milk	Menstrual cups are very helpful
	Cooking supplies	
	Girl deodorants	
	More feminine products	