

# Goals of the IPFW American Democracy Project

The IPFW Steering Committee held its first meeting in September of 2003. The goal for the first year was to develop a campus understanding of civic engagement and develop a two-year action plan to use the classroom, co-curricular activities, and the campus culture to advance the goal of citizen education. Below is a list of the goals established by the IPFW Steering Committee. Beneath the goals are activities or avenues to achieve those goals.

Goal: Participation in democratic processes

Goal: Develop knowledge of democratic processes

- Engage students in service learning
- Require students demonstrate a minimal level of understanding of governmental processes
- Develop a First Year Experience program
- Modify IPFW's General Education requirements
- Sponsor co-curriculum activities (multi-disciplinary speeches, panel discussions, debates, etc.)

Goal: Develop an appreciation of democratic processes, values, beliefs, and attitudes

- Teach self-government principles
- Promote public service
- Encourage students to be involved in efforts to enhance a diverse society
- Establish a desire for life long learning about public affairs

Goal: Gain the knowledge of how American public policy works

Goal: Inculcate the values of democratic society

- Emphasize the importance of tolerance and diversity in democratic society
- Inculcate democratic values across the curriculum through
  - Pedagogy
  - Faculty / student relationships
  - Faculty / faculty relationships
  - Faculty / administration relationships
  - Student / student relationships
- Ensure the institution models democratic society through
  - Grade appeals process
  - Public commitment to integrity
  - The strategic mission of the university

Goal: Develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities that are needed for participation in a democratic society

- Teach leadership skills to student leaders

- Address / enforce ethical communication for all students in all courses
- Teach in residence halls
  - Diversity awareness
  - Conflict resolution skills
- Require each student to learn about the region (Northeast Indiana)
- Ensure students learn about social justice and social change
- Work for equity
- Foster confidence and identity as a member of society
- Develop research skills
- Ensure members of the university community:
  - Are capable of implementing or acting on ideas
  - Have the ability to think inclusively rather than exclusively
  - Apply ethical and moral reasoning
- Develop students' ability to integrate concepts from diverse disciplines
- Help people think critically about connectedness in society

Goal: Wrestle with the current public policy issues

- Use current public policy issues as themes for Learning Communities
- Develop interdisciplinary courses (courses that meet IPFW's General Education requirement)
- Bring speakers to campus
- Sponsor and moderate debates
- Sponsor and moderate panel discussions
- Trade scholars / professionals for the day

Goal: Instill in the institution a commitment to provide opportunities for engagement

- Develop a motto
- Post values
- Develop a ritual for commencement ceremonies
- Write an anthem for the university

Goal: Develop student skills for engagement

- Develop courses that could be offered by Continuing Studies or other IPFW entities
  - How to participate in political and public processes
  - How to protest
  - How to research issues
  - How to run for office

Goal: Track our progress

- Gather baseline data
- Create an inventory of offerings
- Evaluate progress