

Illinois Campus Compact

Educating Citizens. Building Communities.



Natalie Furllett speaking at the DePaul University Fall Forum on Teaching and Learning Oct. 23, 2015.

How to support a greater ILCC vision

From the Executive Director

For the last six months, I've been making my way around the state on a "listening tour" to understand the relationship between ILCC and its members. It's been wonderful to see your campuses and learn from everyone. Recently, on a visit to a member campus

I was asked a question I had not yet considered: What does it mean to be a good member of Illinois Campus Compact? An amazing question that caught me off guard.

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Fall Forum

ILCC Executive Director defines civic engagement at the DePaul University conference.

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An interview with the senior director of academic and community partnerships at NEIU, Kris Pierre.

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A new initiative launched for VISTA members to master their presentation skills.

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I have spent so much time thinking about how I can serve you and your campuses that I hadn't considered what you could give back.

Currently, there are a few tangible things that member campuses can do that will support the greater vision of Illinois Campus Compact.

First, the national office of Campus Compact along with the board of directors and the state executive directors have written the **Campus Compact Thirtieth Anniversary Action Statement of Presidents and Chancellors**. This statement reaffirms all of our commitment to the pillars of civic engagement and the public purpose of higher education. We are asking university and college presidents to sign this statement. The updated statement can be found [here](#).



Campus Compact
Illinois

Please encourage your president to review and sign this document in support of the Campus Compact vision.

The strength of this organization is the network. By sharing and participating in ILCC events, you are giving back to other members and creating opportunities for collaboration.

Second, the national **Campus Compact National Survey** is currently open. We are asking all member campuses to provide details about the civic engagement activities on their campus. It can be a long process but the information it provides is invaluable. As Illinois Campus Compact embarks on a strategic planning process in the new year, this information can help guide us to the programs and services that best fit your campuses. That survey can be found [here](#).

The survey is due January 4, 2016.

One more exciting opportunity would be to submit a proposal for the **Upper Midwest Civic Engagement Summit** that ILCC cohosts with the Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota compacts every spring. The conference will be at the University of Iowa on May 31st and June 1st. We are hoping to have a great showing of Illinois colleges and universities as both participants and presenters. More information can be found [here](#). Proposals are due February 12th.

While these are specific examples of being an active member, there are so many ways that members can engage with ILCC. The strength of this organization is the network. By sharing and participating in ILCC events, you are giving back to other members and creating opportunities for collaboration.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season.

Best wishes,

Natalie Furllett



Kristine Pierre supports Northeastern Illinois University's Division of Student Affairs as Senior Director of Academic and Community Partnerships. She joined NEIU as Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs some 13 years ago, and saw it evolve over the years not only as one of the most diverse universities, but also as the first four-year Hispanic serving institution in the Midwest.

She received her M.A. in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Ohio State University and completed her B.A. from Western Michigan University. With her father an elementary school principal and mother a special education teacher, Kris considers education her family business.

A native-Midwestern who lived for 14 years in California and acquired a taste for good wine, she loves exploring Chicago's neighborhoods. Kris represents NEIU at ILCC meetings. She is also the recipient of a McCormick Strategic Civic Leader Fellows grant. Recently, we sat down with her for a phone interview. Excerpts follow:

Building engaged neighborhoods

An interview with Kristine Pierre: civic engagement professional from NEIU

By Rubina Jabbar

***ILCC:** How has the NEIU evolved over the years, and what are your plans to expand further?*

KP: Northeastern Illinois University has a longstanding commitment to civic learning and democratic engagement. We were founded as Cook County teachers college back in 1867. There has been a long history and tradition of involvement. From supporting our Inner City Studies program in the Bronzeville community to serving the Latino community in El Centro, NEIU continues their strong commitment to all of Chicagoland.

Most of our students come from the Chicago Metro Area, and most of them stay in the Chicago metropolitan area after graduation. Part of our mission is that we are here to help prepare professionals and citizens for the Chicago area. We do this through different programs such as the Reimagining Food Initiative, which helped us launch a community garden for the campus in partnership with the Peterson Garden. Our Economic Inequality Initiative provided some common themes for the people to look at

working across organizational boundaries. Our Chavez Day program works with a number of organizations in the North River area of Chicago. All of these programs have provided NEIU with strong reciprocal partnerships with various community organizations, which I hope continue to grow.

***ILCC:** Northeastern is said to be the most diverse institution in the Midwest, what are the challenges that you face working with students from diverse background, with regards to service learning?*

KP: I really see that as a resource. A lot of schools have to spend time with their students to get them to understand the importance of reciprocal partnerships. Our students already know that. Our students are not just first generation college students but also first generation Americans. So they get that. When you get our students involved, they can help the institution in identifying some of the community issues and help us link to different kinds of organizations.

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On the flip side, one of the challenges is that our students work a lot. They don't always have the time to be able to do service learning and civic engagement experiences. The way folks that are more economically privileged can. They are not just working to support themselves, but also to support their families.

ILCC: *NEIU is the recipient of ILCC McCormick Strategic Civic Leader Fellows grant. Could you please tell us about the impact that this grant has created so far?*

KP: We have rich diversity, rich experiences for our students coming to us, a really committed faculty wanting to empower first generation college students. And a really good staff that cares about working with diversity issues. But what we don't have are resources. We don't have money. Funding through grant really got us moving forward.

ILCC: *Higher education has a number of distinct yet overlapping civic missions and goals. What are yours, and how well your campus is contributing to those goals?*

KP: What drives me in my work is when I can find the sweet spots. To me, the sweet spot is when we are working in partnership with a community organization on a community problem/issue, helping to address those needs and, at the same time, our students are learning something that matters to them, and you see the sparkle in their eyes and the excitement because they know what they are working on right now is important, and they are making a difference. In terms of mission, ours is to serve the community, particularly because our historical roots are in urban education.

We are probably one of the best institutions in the country when it comes to preparing teachers and other professionals in education to work in urban areas. Because we are so diverse, we are serving the country. Our students are learning how to work with the people who are different than they are.

ILCC: *Do you have any role models, or who would you like to consider your role model and why?*

KP: I don't have any one role model. I have different role models. And I seek out different role models for different things in different points in my life. In my earlier years, it was Thomas Jefferson, and despite some of the later things we found out about his personal life I would still consider him a role model sort. Then I think of my dad who worked for the state of Michigan in K-12 education for over 40 years was a superb elementary school principal. His commitment and care for education is something that matters to me. I keep one of the school bells they gave him when he retired on my desk.

Tom Coyne, my vice president for student affairs when I was an undergrad, has definitely been a role model for me. He was a person who really cared about the students and was extremely approachable and accessible. I will never have some of the skills he had in terms of remembering people's names. He's truly a good guy, and I consider myself lucky that he is still with us. My other role model would be the woman I worked with for over 10 years at Cal State Fullerton, Loydene Keith, who had a tremendous ability to build teams. I don't have that skill at the same level she does. But it is something I aspire to. I cannot speak for Thomas Jefferson, but I would say my dad, Tom and Loydene all also have a wicked sense of humor, which I think is really important. ♦



ILCC participated in IIT recruitment event Nov. 12, 2015.

Final VISTA training for the year 2015 concludes

ILCC hosted its final VISTA training for the year 2015 on Friday, Nov. 13 at the Rauner Center, Chicago. Sheree Sanderson (GSU) and Wilson Chow (The American Red Cross) presented as lead trainers. Executive Director Natalie Furllett welcomed the participants and VISTA leader Rima Nimri moderated the event. Next training will be held on Jan. 29, 2016.



Wilson Chow presenting at ILCC VISTA training.



Fall forum on teaching and learning for civic engagement.

Announcements

ILCC Meeting

Our next community engagement professionals meeting will be held at Lewis University on Friday, Feb. 5th, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p. m.

Membership Survey

Members are invited to complete the 2015 Campus Compact annual membership survey that marks 30 years of collecting data regarding campus-community engagement. The survey site will remain open till January 4, 2016 and is accessible [here](#).

Call for proposals

Call for proposals for the 2016 [Upper Midwest Summit Civic Engagement Summit](#) is now open. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 12th.

Regional Training

We will be hosting the first VISTA training for the year 2016 on Friday, Jan. 29th.

Teaching and learning through civic engagement

DePaul University honored ILCC Executive Director Natalie Furllett by inviting her to present opening remarks and introduce the key note speaker Dr. Barbara Jacoby at the annual Fall Forum on Teaching and Learning that focused on civic engagement this year.

During her presentation, Natalie defined civic engagement and also talked about the mission of Campus Compact and its commitment to creating and educating civically engaged citizens who are ready to take the role of leadership in their communities. On civic engagement, she said it could

be different on every campus. It could be service learning, voter registration and education, or co-curricular community service. “Whatever it is, we need to get back to that and do that well,” she said.

Dr. Barbra Jacoby has published seven books and received her Ph.D. in French Language and Literature from the University of Maryland. She currently serves as faculty associate for leadership and community service learning. She presented on Teaching for Civic Engagement: Do Good Well. [Click here to view](#) Barbra Jacoby’s keynote presentation. ♦

VISTA webinar initiative launched

ILCC introduced the “webinar presentation” initiative for its VISTA members to master their presentation skills, get used to a new communication tool while connecting with their peers who have similar project ideas or challenges.

The very first webinar titled “Transitioning from soldier to student: a guide for military veterans” was jointly presented by our VISTA members from National Louis University, Jonah Wine and Exekiel Aranez on October 21, 2015.

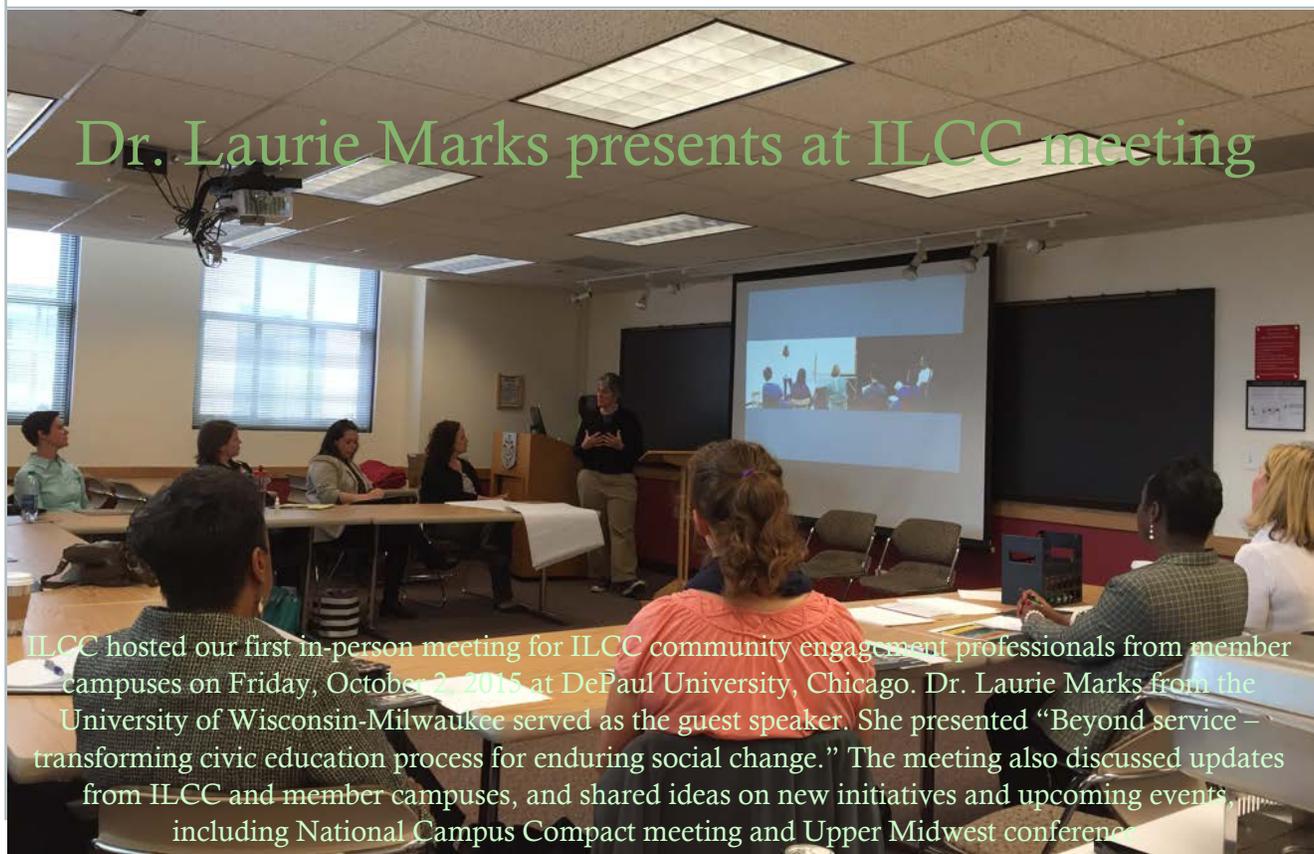
VISTA members Jordan Hall from Parkland College and



Tyler McClean from Millikin University presented during the second webinar on November 18th. Jordan presented on managing work related stress and Tyler on service learning outcomes.

[Click here](#) to send your feedback on our webinar initiative. ♦

Dr. Laurie Marks presents at ILCC meeting



ILCC hosted our first in-person meeting for ILCC community engagement professionals from member campuses on Friday, October 2, 2015 at DePaul University, Chicago. Dr. Laurie Marks from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee served as the guest speaker. She presented “Beyond service – transforming civic education process for enduring social change.” The meeting also discussed updates from ILCC and member campuses, and shared ideas on new initiatives and upcoming events, including National Campus Compact meeting and Upper Midwest conference.



Educating Citizens. Building Communities.

Illinois Campus Compact is a coalition of colleges and universities working together to promote the civic mission of higher education through effective civic engagement and serving learning practices.

We provide support through workshops, funding and conferences for members and community partners.

Our initiatives include community engagement professional meetings, Campus Election Engagement Project, and AmeriCorps VISTA Program. With 24 VISTAs serving 18 campuses, we host one of the largest VISTA programs in nation.

Initiatives

- **Community Engagement Professional** meetings aim to share and discuss updates and upcoming events.
- **Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP)** campuselect.org helps campuses engage students in electoral process.
- **AmeriCorps VISTA** program supports community efforts to eliminate poverty. For more information visit <https://sites.google.com/site/ilccvistas/home>

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