Governors State Community Engagement Survey Results

There were 21 responses to the Community Engagement Survey out of what I understand to be 200 requests to fill out the survey. This results in a 10% response rate.

The following organizations/agencies responded to the survey (Q1): Channahon Police Department, Dolton District 148, Lincoln ESD 156, SPEED Seja #802, Speed School District #802, University of St. Francis, Will County Health Department, Servce Illinois Commission, Community High School District #218, Saint Xavier University, Project H.O.P.E., South Suburban Mayors and Mangers Associate, F.U.T.U.R.E. Foundation, Country Club Hills School District #160, Canadian National Railroad, East Peoria Community High School, Olive Branch Counseling Associates, Inc., Workforce Investment Board of Will County, Minooka Community Consolidated School District #201, A.M.V., and O.T.



Q2 What is the general mission of your organization/agency?

Of the 21 respondents: 4 identified as Governmental, 12 as Educational, 2 as Public Safety, 3 as Economic Development, and 4 as Health and Wellness. (Several organizations identified with more than one category) In addition there were two 'other' responses, the Will County Health Department specifically commented with its general mission: Serve Illinois improves communities by enhancing volunteerism and instilling an ethic of service throughout the state; Further, Canadian National identified as "Transportation/Logistics."

The individuals (Q3) actually filling out the survey were mostly superintendents and principals, with the occasional Dean of Students from the educational organizations. The individuals from the other types of organizations largely identified as Executive Directors or other high-level coordinating positions.

Q4 Has Governors State University been involved in helping to meet the goals of



Q5 If yes, how has it done so?



Of the 18 respondents: 12 said that GSU offered programming related to their goals, 4 said GSU has co-sponsored programs with their organization, 11 had GSU students intern with them, 3 had GSU students volunteer with them, and 11 had GSU faculty and/or staff provide them with service/expertise. In addition, there were 4 'Other' responses, two of which spoke more specifically to the role that GSU students had done in their respective organizations. The other two spoke to the specific kinds of resources GSU offers their organization, and the community at large.

Note (Q6-9): Although a total of 14 organizations claimed to have had either GSU interns or volunteers, only 3 answered Questions 6 - 9. Somewhat limiting their usefulness as data points. Encouragingly however, all three respondents claimed they would like to have more workers/volunteers from Governors State.



Note: (Q10-12): Although a total of 11 organizations claimed to have had support from faculty or staff, only 4 responded to Questions 10-12. Although, this is not quite as bad a response rate as the previous 4 questions, this still limits the utility of the questions, given possible selection bias. It is worth noting however, that the response to these questions was almost universally positive.



When asked if organizations had any suggestions as to how GSU could improve services (Q13) there were 13 responses. Of those responses those that came from Educational institutions were by far the most positive, either suggesting there was nothing that could be improved on ("I think GSU does an incredible job providing services to the school districts in the community. I cannot think of one other thing you can do for District 148"), or simply stating that GSU continue the programs they already have in place. There were several calls for a greater focus on volunteer recruitment (which fits well into Q9 wherein there was a universal call for more volunteers/interns) and there were many calls for a more formalized relationship with community partners. There were a few specific ideas that warrant individual mention: the Channahon Police Department said, "Do more outreach to the police agencies for students to act as role players for training scenarios for officer, cadet and citizen police academy training. It would be a win-win situation." Saint Xavier University wondered if GSU could "possibly expand and grow the program to reach a greater population (minority Hispanic population); expose GSU as a viable higher learning institution to neighboring communities that are not aware of the university and what it has to offer."



