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USFSP Earns Carnegie Community Engagement Classification

Posted [January 5, 2011](#) at 1:52 pm by [Melanie Marquez](#)

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ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (January 5, 2011) – USF St. Petersburg is among the 115 universities in the country selected in 2010 to earn the Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The foundation released the 2010 list today.

USF St. Petersburg is among the 311 total institutions in the country to earn the designation from the Carnegie Foundation since the classification was instituted. The classification was achieved through the USF St. Petersburg's "documented excellent alignment among mission, culture, leadership, resources and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement," according to the foundation, an independent research and policy center.

The classification represents USF St. Petersburg's collaboration with the larger community for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. Colleges and universities with an institutional focus on community engagement were invited to apply for the classification, first offered in 2006 as part of an extensive restructuring of The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

"Community engagement is an ongoing priority for USF St. Petersburg," said Norine Noonan, regional vice chancellor for academic affairs. "Our faculty's research connects and impacts the local community while the civic engagement incorporated into many courses offers students an enriched academic experience."

The Center for Civic Engagement, established in 2006 at USFSP, works to provide opportunities for students to implement concepts learned in the classroom with local organizations and social services groups. The center provides faculty workshops and grants for the advancement of civically engaged courses.

At USFSP, students have the opportunity to pursue a minor in Leadership Studies, an area with a strong focus on civic engagement. Students learn the leadership theories and practices necessary to make positive contributions to adaptive social change and the common good in their chosen professions and communities. Program faculty members employ interactive and experiential teaching methods wherever possible.

"Our values as an institution include fostering partnerships that benefit the campus and the community," said Margaret Sullivan, regional chancellor. "We have a responsibility toward civic well-being and this classification highlights our dedication toward such efforts."

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