SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

SSCC Application for 2018/2019 Participation

Summary

The SIUE Successful Communities Collaborative (SSCC) is a new initiative linking Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's faculty and students to communities by directing students' coursework in multiple disciplines to carry out social, economic, cultural, and environmental projects that further a community partner's long-term plans. SIUE is accepting proposals from cities, towns, and villages to be the partner for our inaugural program in academic year 2018-2019. The successful applicant will benefit from approximately 5,000-20,000+ hours of work by SIUE students and faculty members on projects that enhance community sustainability and capacity to thrive. The partner must support the effort through dedicated staff involvement, administrative commitment and the payment of a fee. The selection process is competitive. The deadline for applications is **March 15, 2018**.

Overview of Program

The SSCC program is a year-long partnership between SSCC and a community partner. The partnership will engage students and faculty from across the university to work on sustainability and livability projects identified by the collaborative partner. Students bring energy, enthusiasm, and innovative approaches to the partners identified, difficult, persistent problems. SSCC's primary value derives from collaborations resulting in on-the-ground impact and forward movement for a community ready to transition to a more sustainable and livable future.

SSCC can include courses in

- Arts and Science
- Business Administration/ Business Management
- Community Engagement
- Digital Arts
- Economics
- Engineering
- Geography
- Health
- Criminal Justice
- Public Administration
- Transportation
- Humanities and Social Sciences disciplines
- Journalism
- Planning
- Public Health
- Public Policy
- Product Design
- Social Work

Additional disciplines may be added, depending on the partner's needs and faculty interest. SSCC projects may combine multiple disciplines to address problems from diverse perspectives.

Similar city-university partnerships around the country have aligned with a wide array of goals, and have included:

- Culture and art
- Recommendations for improving civic engagement with neighborhood groups and minority residents
- History of the population
- Transportation safety, bicycle planning, and recommendations for street-scale transportation improvements
- Improved way-finding capabilities and signage
- Economic feasibility studies
- Analysis of human services and educational data
- A greenhouse gas inventory and a climate preparedness plan
- Opioid Epidemic: community engagement & awareness
- Establishing robust recycling programs

Benefits of the SIUE Successful Communities Collaborative (SSCC)

SSCC provides numerous benefits for the partner. The partner can expect:

- Concept plans and designs that can energize the partner's staff and community members around projects tied to partner goals. Students can explore and innovate in directions that are sometimes unavailable to partner staff or consultants due to constrained project budgets or political conditions.
- A high rate of return on investment, with 5,000 - 20,000+ hours of student work on projects
- Increased energy and enthusiasm among residents and partner staff, and greater support from residents for proposed solutions, through student outreach in your area.
- Robust proposals that can spark community and staff discussions, increase the breadth of conversations around projects, as well as help to get "stuck" projects moving.
- Increased publicity in local, state, regional, and national publications and an improved reputation as a forward thinking, sustainable community. SSCC project results can help you clarify, understand, and apply sustainability and livability principles.
- An interdisciplinary group of faculty experts with first-hand knowledge of leading edge practices and research.
- Positive economic impact
- Interested students, with on-the-ground knowledge of your area, who may serve as candidates for future internships and staff positions. Students often turn out to be informal ambassadors for the partner, describing their successful collaborations with the partner in presentations, community meetings, future academic courses, and job interviews.

Partner Selection

For the year-long partnership, the community partner should have the staffing and funding capacity to support the projects. For the SSCC application, partners may want to develop and propose more projects than desired, since not all projects will be suitable for matching with university expertise.

Partners are encouraged to collaborate with other local entities (e.g. cities, counties, watershed councils, transit districts, school districts, nonprofit organizations, business or professional organizations, private funders, or research or educational institutions) to formulate projects and share costs.

Proposals are judged with respect to SIUE's ability to serve the project requests, demonstration of partner's commitment with respect to top level administration and financial support, and ability to articulate measurable impact within the academic year timeframe. Additional consideration is given to projects that include specific sustainability goals.

Identifying Projects

Successful development of a project list includes the following: (1) the partner proposes a list of projects after consulting with community partner and SSCC staff; (2) SSCC and the partner discuss modifications to the proposed projects to match the projects' scope and scale with availability and interest of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; (3) SSCC may suggest additional projects, based on the university's capacity to meet the partner's sustainability and livability goals; (4) the community partner ranks the proposed projects based on priority. SSCC will identify and tentatively match university faculty and courses with proposed projects as part of its review of each partner's application. Project timelines should not exceed two semesters. Work should be able to start in August 2018 and end in May 2019.

We understand that community partners may not be familiar with the wide range of university faculty expertise available, so we encourage you to think creatively when developing project ideas. Tim Engelman or Connie Frey Spurlock are available to answer questions about your project ideas and to discuss the range of faculty expertise available to you.

For additional information please contact:
Tim Engelman (tengelm@siue.edu) or Connie Frey-Spurlock (cfrey@siue.edu)

Timeline for Partner Selection

January 2018: SSCC opens competition and begins accepting applications from invited potential partners. SSCC strongly suggests that partners interested in applying for SSCC schedule a phone conference or visit with SSCC staff and faculty after consulting with the community partner's staff.
March 15, 2018: Applications are due to SSCC.
April 15, 2018: Interviews will be conducted and partner selected.
April 30, 2018: Partner announced and contract (MOU) signed
May/June, 2018: Complete final draft of SSCC project list with course matches; scope of work designed for each project.
August 2018: SSCC kick-off event.
August 20, 2018: Fall term classes begin.
April 2019: SSCC 2018-2019 wrap-up celebration and hand-off to the 2019-2020 partner.
June 15, 2019: Spring term written reports delivered to the partner.

Expected Financial Support and Staff Resources

The cost to the partner will vary based on the number of projects, number of academic courses, and level of student activity in each course. The partner should expect to pay between $5,000-15,000 per project to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. We recognize that budgets are tight; SSCC is exploring ways to provide resources to assist with financial support to partners. Partners have funded similar programs through collaborating with other groups, including school and park districts, private developers, business partners, and chambers of commerce, as well as leveraging state and federal grants.

Services covered by the fee include coordination support from SSCC staff; student and faculty site visits to the partner; compilation, printing, and distribution of high-quality final reports; publicity and hosting of events; student-created materials for display; coordination of contact with media; and electronic versions of coursework produced by students. SSCC will work closely with SIUE Marketing and Communications and other offices to coordinate publicity and the network of resources available to students and the partner.

A successful SSCC program is highly collaborative and requires significant engagement from a variety of stakeholders. The partner must have one or more staff champions for SSCC, preferably a city / county / district manager or another person within the partner organization who has the ability to direct and motivate staff to maximize the benefits of the partnership. The partner will identify specific staff to serve as points of contact and to collaborate on each project with SSCC faculty and students. Partners are expected to attend kick off and celebration events, to encourage the full engagement of the relevant staff involved in projects, and to participate fully in program evaluation activities.

Before the start of the academic year, the partner needs to compile and provide relevant documents, such as, but not limited to, prior concept plans, vision documents, architectural renderings, computer-aided drawings, GIS maps and layers, community datasets and survey results, and aerial photographs. The partner must also identify a staff person who will be the primary program coordinator, serving as a liaison between the partner and SSCC. This coordinator should be involved enough in each project to know the staff and faculty involved and to understand the project's scope and current status.

Upon selection of the community partner, SSCC and the partner will develop a scope of work for each project, detailing the problem statement, potential directions for student exploration, expected outcomes, deliverables, activities, timelines, and the community partner's financial contribution.

Application Instructions

Your SSCC application should include the following components:

1. **Community Information.** Provide the name and contact information (e-mail, phone, mailing address, department, and title) for the primary contact person who will serve as your SSCC program coordinator and primary contact for your application. Social media information should also be included (e.g., platforms and handles).

2. **Project List.** Provide a summary listing of your proposed projects. This summary briefly describes each project in 1-2 paragraphs, including the project's sustainability impacts and the designated staff lead for the project. Include a list of identified or proposed partner organizations and briefly describe their roles in SSCC. We encourage applicants to contact Tim Engelman, SSCC Project Manager, for help and input in developing the project list.

   Example project summary:
   > *Plan and design environmentally friendly re-use and redevelopment of a public housing site in a way that integrates an adjacent affordable housing complex, a sustainable storm-water management system, infill development, and the community at large. Sustainability impact: economic development, active transportation, and improved water quality. Staff contact: Jane Doe, Economic Development Department. Proposed partner organizations: XYZ Contractors can provide needed equipment and trained operators; Midwest Community College can provide technical expertise.*

3. **Details of each Project:** Following the project summary listing, provide details for each project. We suggest including a map showing the project site (if applicable), information about the staff involved in the project, potential funding sources, and the role of partner organizations. Also include a narrative description of the project's goals, sustainability issues addressed by the project, specific problems that students may be able to address, and suggested deliverables from the SSCC courses. Finally, include your plan to evaluate progress and success of SSCC projects during and after the project period.

4. **Letters of Support.** Include letters of support from the city / county / district manager, the partner's elected governing body, identified or proposed partner organizations, and identified or proposed funding entities, where applicable. Effective letters will clearly document a commitment of personnel and a preparedness to collaborate within the allotted timeframes for project activity.

5. **Community Plans.** If the community partner has a sustainability action plan, strategic plan, or other adopted document showing the applicant's commitment to sustainability, include this document in the application.

Application Evaluation Criteria

SSCC applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

Top-Level Support: City / County / District Manager and elected officials indicate willingness to direct staff to provide resources, devote time, and participate in SSCC courses.

Sustainability: Projects include specific sustainability goals, which may include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, fostering active transportation, improving social equity, increasing housing density/mix, improving urban form, reducing energy use, or redeveloping existing structures or sites.

Financial Support: The partner's cost for SSCC will range from $5,000 to $15,000 per project. While we do not ask for a formal commitment of funds at this time, please include a statement in your application indicating expected sources of funding.

Real Impact: Projects directly relate to your goals and will have a measurable positive impact on the community. Realistic plans for measuring the success of SSCC projects during and after the year are over are included.

Academic Calendar and Logistics: Projects are compatible with the SIUE academic calendar of a 16-week semester. Some projects may be complex enough to involve multiple courses over two or three terms.

Faculty Match: Projects must be within the capability of SSCC faculty and students. SSCC will identify faculty who are able and willing to carry out projects based on curricular and research needs and interests. Coordinating with SSCC as you develop your project list will help ensure a strong faculty match.

Please e-mail your completed application to:

SSCC Project Director
Office of Educational Outreach
Outreach@siue.edu

618/650-3210

Applications are due by March 15, 2018.