Curriculum Development Grant Closing Report

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1. Description of grant-supported activity.

To develop a course in local government for Master of Public Affairs (MPA) program newly housed in the Department of Political Science.

2. Were you able to complete the project? Describe any difficulty you had.

Yes, I completed most of the tasks I set out to accomplish including:

(a) Review of key objectives of the BSPA and MPA programs.
(b) Review of current textbooks on state and local politics.
(c) Review of current readers on state and local politics.
(d) Review of peer syllabi on state and local politics.
(e) Review of peer syllabi on public policy.
(f) Review of current readers on public policy.
(g) Establishment of learning objectives for new course.
(h) Development of partnerships with local government office and agencies.
(i) Negotiation of potential schedule for Fall 2010 agency visits and speakers.
(j) Negotiation with public officials, MPA director, and department chair regarding future scheduling (frequency) of the course.

I did not complete a specific course syllabus or course website because it became clear in speaking to my contacts with the City of South Bend that the most feasible model for a university-city partnership would involve a city employee serving as an adjunct instructor. The city does not have the resources required to run the Local Government Academy in the absence of such arrangements (at the present time). In addition, since applying for this grant we hired a new urban politics specialist who is more likely than I to offer local politics courses for our undergraduate and graduate students. For this reason, I focused on developing resources that can be used by the MPA director, by a city employee (with a MA, JD, or PhD) teaching a local government academy, and by any professor (including our urban politics specialist) who wishes to teach this course. Currently, I plan to work with a city employee to offer the course in Fall 2010 and Fall 2012.
3. **Did, or will, the project result in a specific product -- a manuscript, composition, syllabus, etc? If so, please describe and indicate state of development.**

Several completed projects resulted from the work done using this grant. These include:

- A database of over 40 local government texts, including title, author(s), publisher, page count, and table of contents.

- A database of over 140 accredited MPA programs, including departmental home, contact information, relationship to political science, and presence or absence of local government requirement.
  - About 25% of the MPA programs are housed in political science or government departments
  - About one-third of all MPA programs require students to study local government

- A statement about the difference between MPA and MPP programs.
  - Our program is a hybrid, incorporating many goals of traditional MPP programs because of our departmental focus on politics.

- A list of local agencies and sites to visit during a hands-on local government academy.

- A set of learning objectives for the hybrid classroom/city local government course.