

## Understanding Responsibilities of Community Membership Rubric Glossary

- **Civic engagement** is "working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes." In addition, civic engagement encompasses actions wherein individuals participate in activities of personal and public concern that are both individually life enriching and socially beneficial to the community.
- **Civic identity:** When one sees her or himself as an active participant in society with a strong commitment and responsibility to work with others towards public purposes.
- **Civic action and reflection:** When students act on civic needs identified in partnership with the community, and follow this action with structured analyses of the intended and unintended consequences of their actions.
- **Civic/ community contexts:** Organizations, movements, campaigns, a place or locus where people and/ or living creatures inhabit, which may be defined by a locality (school, national park, non-profit organization, town, state, nation) or defined by shared identity (i.e., African-Americans, North Carolinians, Americans, the Republican or Democratic Party, refugees, etc.). In addition, contexts for civic engagement may be defined by a variety of approaches intended to benefit a person, group, or community, including community service or volunteer work, academic work.
- **Complex, multi-layered (gray) context:** The sub-parts or situational conditions of a scenario that bring two or more ethical dilemmas (issues) into the mix/problem/context/ for student's identification.
- **Cross-relationships among the issues:** Obvious or subtle connections between/among the sub-parts or situational conditions of the issues present in a scenario (e.g., relationship of production of corn as part of climate change issue).
- **Ethical issue:** A problem or situation that requires a person or organization to choose between alternatives that must be evaluated as right (ethical) or wrong (unethical).
- **Service-learning class:** A course-based educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity and reflect on the experience in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of personal values and civic responsibility