

- The work of civic engagement is well-rooted in place and in community. As a campus, our physical location in the heart of Indianapolis matters. Our interactions “in and with” the community are shaped by a sense of stewardship and upheld by a commitment to solid relationships. Place matters...and space matters to this work. I am most pleased to announce that CSL has a new place to call **home!**

Through decisions by campus leadership, we have been entrusted with a prime location on the second floor of the newly renovated **Hine Hall**. Windows overlook the center of campus and we have easy access just off the “gerbil tube” that crosses Michigan Street. Our location and space affords new opportunities to engage students, faculty, staff, and community members in important ways. We are most appreciative and take seriously our responsibility to be good stewards and use this space effectively.

More than a decade ago, *Stepping forward as stewards of place* (2002) outlined important actions to solidify engagement within higher education. Our campus has taken many of these steps and as a result we are well-recognized as leaders in the field and strong partners with the local community. And, with this decision to relocate the CSL, the campus is moving ahead, once again, to restate the importance of this work.

Years ago, we wrote an article that gained national attention on implementing service learning in higher education (Bringle & Hatcher, 1996) and concluded that campus leadership for this work is critical to long-term success (Bringle & Hatcher, 2000). At the time, some colleagues scoffed at our ideas and the ambitions we put forth. One key indicator of campus commitment that we identified was space allocation, and we even held on to the importance of a kitchen.

We had been highly influenced by a visit in the early 90's to the **Center for Social Concerns** at the University of Notre Dame. This vibrant center was located in the heart of campus, and we were very impressed that they even had a kitchen. As a result, they could convene student groups for a meal, invite faculty in for lunch, or host community guests for coffee. Little did we know at the time that future research on campus-community partnerships would indicate that coffee and conversation is indeed a critical element to sustaining strong relationships in this work (Sandy, Ikeda, Cruz, Holland, & Rice, 2007).

The CSL has celebrated a number of milestones over the past twenty years...and this is another big one. We look forward to having you visit us (Hine Hall, Room 243) and sharing your ideas on how our new space can be used as well to reach your goals. Please join us for tea or coffee!

Citations:

American Association of State Colleges and Universities (2002). *Stepping forward as stewards of place*. Accessed January 24, 2013 at <http://www.aascu.org/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=5458>.

Bringle, R. G., & Hatcher, J. A. (1996). Implementing service learning in higher education. *Journal of Higher Education*, 67, 221-239.

Bringle, R. G., & Hatcher, J. A. (2000). Institutionalization of service learning in higher education. *Journal of Higher Education*, 71, 273-290.

Sandy, M., Ikeda, E. K., Cruz, N., Holland, B., & Rice, K. (2007). *Community voices: A California Campus Compact study on partnerships*. Accessed January 24, 2013 at <http://www.cacampuscompact.org/html/publications/communityVoices.html>