

Community Policy Institute

Center for Academic Community Engagement, Siena College

Revised Proposal Prepared for: Robert Hackett, President, Bonner Foundation

Original Proposal for: Review Foundation of the Capital Region

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CENTER FOR ACADEMIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

As an innovative nationally recognized leader in academic community engagement, the Center for Academic Community Engagement (ACE) at Siena College is poised at a moment of powerful and unique opportunity. We have the ability to transform the nonprofit sector across the Capital Region of New York, develop innovative models to be replicated nationally, and prepare the next generation of civic minded leaders. Our work will build a stronger, more agile, more efficient and effective nonprofit community while creating a new generation of leaders for nonprofits from program managers and directors to engaged philanthropists and board members.

WHY NOW?

As Government funding to programs that serve some of the most vulnerable populations are being cut, the needs of communities continue to grow. Now, more than ever, our communities need effective solution oriented nonprofits to meet the needs of individuals *and* address the root causes of those needs through empowered evidence-based community building. Governments will increasingly be reliant on these agencies to deliver services and work toward solutions to the challenges faced by communities. Recognizing this, Governor Cuomo is ushering in a modern era for the operation and governance of nonprofit corporations and has appointed the first ever cabinet level position focused on nonprofits. The nonprofit community will require intellectual resources and human capital to transition into this new era, to develop efficiencies that will allow them to continually do more for their constituents with less, and to shift toward evidence-based solutions. Siena College is uniquely placed to provide these intellectual resources and human capital.

WHY SIENA?

Mission: *Siena College is a learning community advancing the ideals of a liberal arts education, rooted in its identity as a Franciscan and Catholic institution.* Creating a new generation of civic minded leaders who serve with the poor and marginalized is at the core of Siena College's mission. As a learning community, advancing the ideals of a liberal arts education, we are deeply rooted in our identity as a Franciscan and Catholic institution. As a Franciscan institution, Siena is committed to building a world that is more peaceable and humane.

Nationally Recognized Program: *Academic and Community Engagement (ACE)*

Our nationally recognized program for community engagement and innovation, Academic and Community Engagement (ACE), connects high impact education with high impact community-campus partnerships. We have more than 125 students serving up to 40 hours of service weekly with more than 50 non-profits. These mutually beneficial partnerships are building a stronger community on our doorstep by creating new innovations in nonprofit management, program delivery, impact assessment, volunteer recruitment, development, retention, board development, and more every day. We are a resource for more effectively deliver services to those who need it most. Our unique approach to the integration of service and academic investigation leads to innovations focused on solving underlying community challenges that feed the cycle of poverty.

Community Policy Institute

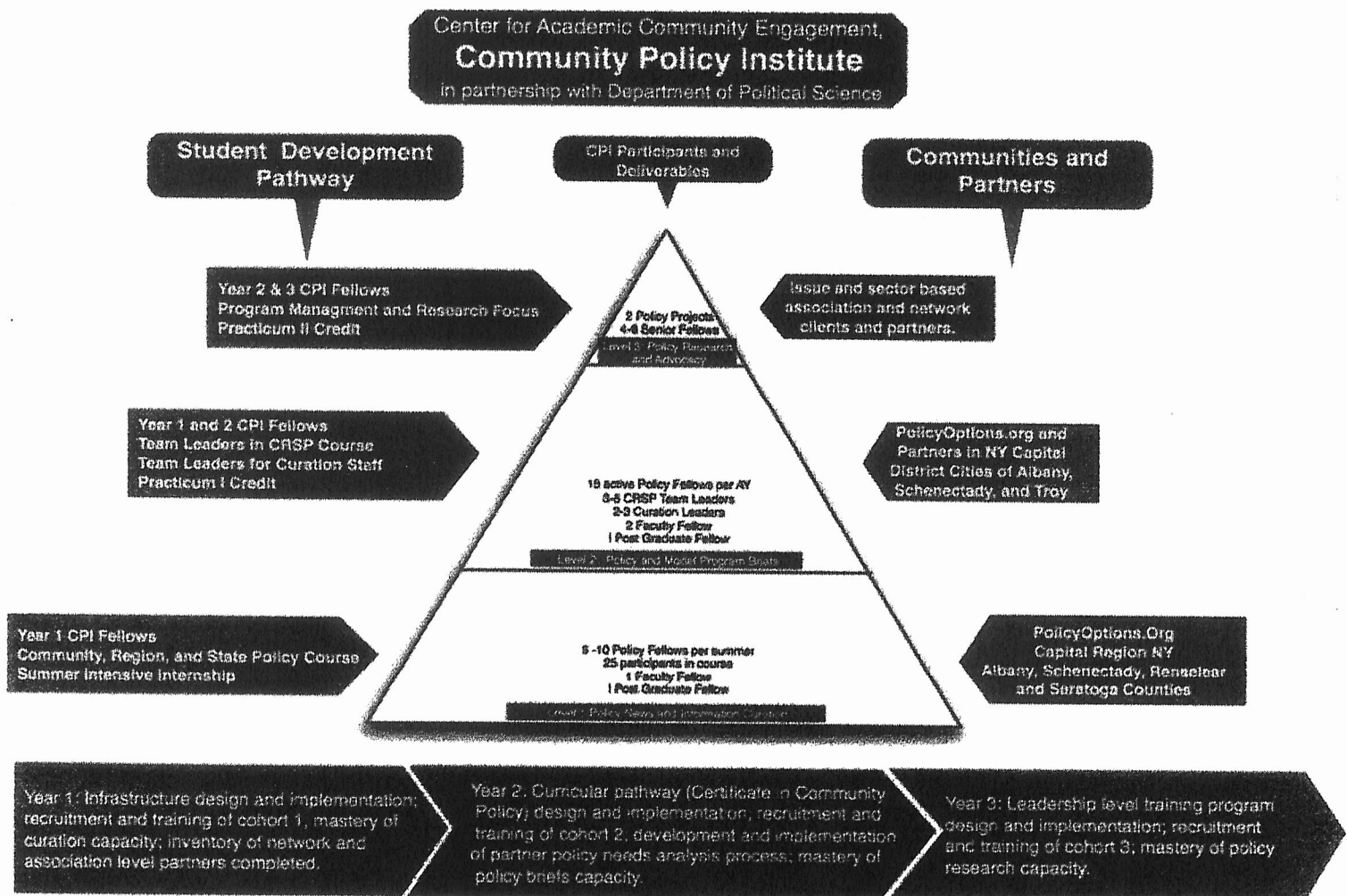
Building on these strengths, ACE is poised to embark on building a new facet of its community development ecosystem. In particular, and in response to a need identified largely by the community, ACE will develop a Community Policy Institute (CPI). Nonprofits have neither the time nor expertise to sift through the deluge of policy news, opportunity, and best practice models available in the information age of internet and beyond. Still, nonprofits have a keen stake in policy issues and know they need to be driven by evidence based best practice in today's highly measured world. The goal of the CPI will be to answer this need for timely, relevant policy and program model information and research.

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT Solution

Advanced policy students (Community Policy Fellows), together with faculty in political science, sociology, social work, economics, and education, will build the capacity and infrastructure to provide the nonprofit community with timely, curated, indexed, policy news and updates relevant to the community challenges faced by nonprofits in the Capital Region. Once that capacity is built, and the analysis and curation system is in place, these Community Policy Fellows will also begin producing Policy Briefs focused on community challenges as a means to better inform nonprofits about the relevant policies and program models available nationally. Finally, Community Policy Fellows will take on public policy research projects for nonprofit network partners like the Homeless Action Network, or the Hunger Action Network, or the New York State Hospital Association.

Project Outline

Program design and implementation can be seen in the diagram below:



Measurable outcomes

- Establish the CPI and the policy news and curation presence in the Capital Region
- Generate Policy Briefs of relevance to the local nonprofit community.
- Hold at least three significant policy-driven network gatherings focused on policy issues of relevance to nonprofits.
- Execute at least 3 policy research and assessment projects for nonprofit collaborative, associations, or networks.
- Increased policy awareness and engagement among nonprofit organizations in the Capital Region.

OTHER PARTNERS

The Bonner Foundation in Princeton New Jersey has been working with several schools across the country to build CPI or Policy Options hubs. See more information here: <http://bonnernetwork.pbworks.com/w/page/13112928/Policy%20Options> and here: <http://www.policyoptions.org/trenton/organization/the-corella-bertram-f-bonner-foundation>. The Bonner Foundation is coordinating this innovative effort and will likely provide funding in year 3 of the project.

SUSTAINABILITY

We will pursue three avenues for sustainable funding:

1. As ACE and Siena has done already with other community engagement programs, CPI will gradually be built into the curricular offerings of the college and therefore be funded over the long term in the normal college budget.
2. As ACE and Siena has done before, we will continue to seek external funding and intend to build an endowed fund to support ongoing needs of the program. Over the last 3 years Siena has been able to endow similar programs that were at first seeded by smaller grants. Our hope is to be part of a larger funding potential across the Bonner Network of Schools doing similar work.
3. As ACE and Siena has done before, by year three we will introduce a sliding scale voluntary contribution for policy research clients in the nonprofit sector to create a modest revenue stream which will be redirected to invest in CPI.

BUDGET --- as proposed to Review Foundation

Annual Budget of \$30,000 (20k from Review Foundation, 10k from Siena) allocated as follows:

- Project Director Stipend (\$5,000)
- Senior Faculty Fellow will be appointed to become the managing partner of the CPI (\$5,000).
- A full-time postgraduate year-of-service fellow will also be appointed as the Administrative Coordinator (\$10,000).
- Ten advanced undergraduate social science students will be recruited and trained to be the Community Policy Fellows (\$10,000). Undergraduate Community Policy Fellows will also be enrolled in AmeriCorps.

BUDGET --- as proposed to the Bonner Foundation

Annual Budget of \$55,000 (20k from Review Foundation, 10k from Siena, 25k from Bonner Foundation) allocated as follows:

- Project Director Stipend (\$10,000)
 - 2 Senior Faculty Fellows will be appointed to become the managing partner of the CPI (\$10,000).
 - A full-time postgraduate year-of-service fellow will also be appointed as the Administrative Coordinator (\$15,000).
 - Fifteen advanced undergraduate social science students will be recruited and trained to be the Community Policy Fellows (\$15,000). Undergraduate Community Policy Fellows will also be enrolled in AmeriCorps.
 - Travel and Conference Attendance Costs (\$5,000)
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BUDGET NARRATIVE — for Bonner Foundation

- **Project Director Stipend**

As the Center for Academic Community Engagement has grown, we have begun allocating the costs of the Center Director across the programs within the Center in a manner that better captures the commitment of the Director to each program and makes the Director position sustainable. Currently, a similar portion of the Director cost is allocated to the NEXT program in the same fashion and will be funded from the endowment for that program. Bonner Leader Program Endowment rules preclude this from happening with any funds generated from that endowment, however partner cost-share rates will be utilized to cover a similar portion of the cost of the Center Director position for this program.

- **Senior Faculty Fellows**

Siena requires accounting for faculty time on projects like this primarily in the form of stipends. Ideally as the program matures and is built into the regular curricular offerings of the college, some these funds will be freed up and redirected to support more student Fellows. One paid Faculty Fellows will always be needed to assure quality control for Policy Research and Briefs.

- **Administrative Coordinator**

ACE has developed the capacity to grow-our-own year-of-service post-graduate fellows as culminating leadership experiences for our best students.

- **Undergraduate Fellows student stipends of-set opportunity cost for students to participate in the program.** The majority of this incentivizing is done in the summer months when students traditionally work summer jobs. As Siena is not a Bonner Scholar school we do not have the same capacity as Scholar schools to provide incentives for Summer of Service programs like this.

- **Conference participation will be crucial to developing a network of schools across the country.** Students and Faculty will attend annual Bonner Foundation gatherings and other regional gatherings to

LONG-TERM ENDOWMENT NEED ---

~1,000,000+ TO GENERATE 55,000 PER YEAR IN ANNUAL PROGRAM BUDGET

CURRENTLY SEEKING INITIAL ENDOWMENT GIFT AT 250-500,000 LEVEL BY AY 2016-17
