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Creating Citizens: Liberal Arts, Civic Engagement, and the Land-Grant Tradition

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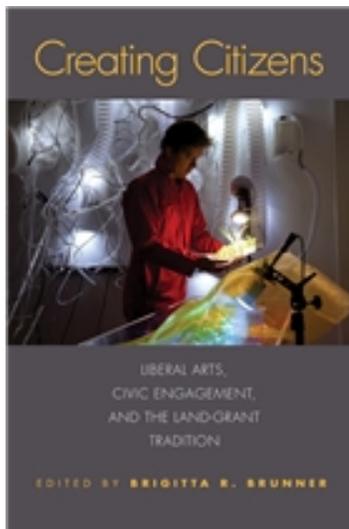
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Recommended for public and academic libraries, English Department faculty and scholars of American literature.

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Creating Citizens: Liberal Arts, Civic Engagement, and the Land-Grant Tradition, edited by Brigitta R. Brunner. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-8173-1907-6 (cloth); 978-0-8173-8960-4 (ebook). \$49.95. 192 p.



This collection of essays in *Creating Citizens: Liberal Arts, Civic Engagement, and the Land-Grant Tradition*, written by professors and administrators of Auburn University is an excellent resource guide for any faculty or staff member of a higher education institution interested in building a program in civic engagement activities. By sharing these essays, Brigitta R. Brunner provides a series of examples of how an institution can plan, develop and assess the success of civic engagement activities.

Brunner advocates that faculty provide active learning beyond the classroom giving students an opportunity to acquire experience, utilize critical thinking and apply ethical reasoning principles to their accumulation of civic knowledge (p. Introduction).

Why is Auburn University's history a good example of an institution whose students might benefit from civic engagement activities? Brunner points to the histories of Auburn University's founding, beginning as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama in 1872, changing to Alabama Polytechnic Institute (API) in 1899 and emerging as Auburn University in 1960. Land grant colleges and universities were founded to provide

opportunities to its local citizens for a quality technical, engineering and science education. Little emphasis was placed on courses or majors in the liberal arts—little integration of the focus on the importance of community and civic engagement activities.

Brunner's nine selected essays begin with examples of how an institution can explain to faculty and administrators the value of a civic engagement experience. The idea that building civic participation between a college or university and a surrounding community is not new; however these programs are seen most often in liberal arts institutions—those with strong majors in political science, English, history, biology, psychology, and sociology. Brunner notes that in the 1920s faculty and staff at then API and now Auburn University were experimenting with civic outreach with the establishment of the first public radio station. WAPI was an early example of its civic engagement activities (p. 3).

One essayist raises the point that many will ask, "will the civic engagement learning experience result in a job at the end?" In the essay by William E. Kelly, "A Profile of a University Community and Civic Engagement Political Science Internship", Kelly says if the intern has a rigorous experience and can tie the classroom learning to the internship experience, his or her future in civic activities will be enhanced. (p.41)

Recommended for public libraries and academic libraries.

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From Revolution to Reunion: The Reintegration of the South Carolina Loyalists by Rebecca Brannon. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2016. ISBN 978-1-61117-668-1 (hard); 978-1-61117-669-8 (epub). \$49.99. 232 p.

