



Sent: September 23, 2008

Subject: Discussion Guide for Latest Issue of Peer Review

It's great to see so much activity on campuses this election season. But what happens on Nov. 5 after the election? We hope that campuses will seize this moment in history to keep the momentum long after the election. We're developing resources that will help campuses do just that - *starting now*.

The most recent issue of the Association of American Colleges and University's (AACU) quarterly journal, [Peer Review](#), released only last week, examines how colleges and universities encourage and engage students politically. It begins with three lead articles that explore the place of political learning (distinguished from a "broader goal of civic engagement with all that entails") in college and why political learning is central to higher education's historic mission of educating for democracy. Anne Colby of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching reviews her research on student political engagement. Our director, Nancy Thomas, challenges colleges and universities to facilitate this generation's challenge of creating a more just and deliberative democracy. And TDI members Ira Harkavy and Matthew Hartley provide both an historical and contemporary look at Ben Franklin's Academy of Philadelphia (a/k/a the University of Pennsylvania). The issue also contains seven articles on promising practices on campuses nationally.

To help you help us move the needle on this work, TDI has developed a [discussion guide](#) for this issue. We encourage campuses to bring faculty from across the disciplines, staff responsible for co-curricular learning, institutional leaders, and students together to reflect, discuss, and collaboratively consider whether and how your institution nurtures students' inclination and ability to actively participate (not just vote) in a democracy. We can also imagine ways to use this guide as a classroom teaching tool, a faculty development instrument, in strategic planning processes, and as a way to engage trustees in a discussion about the aims of higher education.

We encourage you to purchase the entire *Peer Review* issue by going to [AACU's](#) site. We're trying to make this easy for you, however, so you can download for free the three lead articles on the [TDI](#) site. You can also download from AACU's page a few of the articles, including one by our friends (more TDI members!) at the Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University.