



**Sent: September 24, 2008**

**Subject: The Merits of Community Organizing**

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The work of 'community organizers' has received considerable attention since vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin remarked at the Republican National Convention, "I guess a small-town mayor is sort of like a community organizer, except that you have actual responsibility."

The Democracy Imperative is nonpartisan, but we're pro-democracy. Many TDI members take great pride in their work as community and campus organizers - and for good reason. Community organizers exhibit leadership skills by communicating persuasively, building coalitions, negotiating conflict, rallying others to action, and making a real difference in people's lives. Community organizing is how we do democracy.

In good organizing fashion, it did not take long for some community organizers to start getting their message out and articulate the merits of their work. See this [New York Times op-ed](#) and [Community Organizers Fight Back](#).

Let's send our own message that higher education takes educating for democracy seriously. Help us highlight academic courses and co-curricular programming in community organizing and democracy-building by growing [TDI's syllabi repository](#). Please contact your colleagues and send submissions to [democracy.imperative@unh.edu](mailto:democracy.imperative@unh.edu).