



Sent: February 20, 2009

Subject: New White Paper

The New England Resource Center for Higher Education recently (NERCHE) released the "[Democratic Engagement White Paper](#)" which critically examines the state of civic engagement in higher education. This paper attempts to capture the key points of discussion from a 2008 forum that the Kettering Foundation and NERCHE convened.

The white paper raises a set of difficult questions that higher education in general, and individual campuses, should be discussing (like, are current civic engagement efforts actually transforming higher education?). NERCHE invites feedback and comments to the white paper at their [blog](#), so we encourage you to read the paper and join in the conversation.

The white paper has two significant findings:

- 1.** This nation faces significant societal challenges, and higher education must play a role in responding to them. How higher education fulfills this role is the difficult challenge.
- 2.** The civic engagement movement has not realized its full potential. There is significant and important work to be done to deepen existing work on campuses and as the paper states, "Simply put, civic engagement is a defining characteristic of few colleges and universities."

Please share this email and white paper with your networks and colleagues, and encourage them to provide feedback and [join the conversation](#).