

**NEXTGEN CIVIC LEADER CORPS**



# **TRI CAMPUS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE FALL GATHERING**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2023**

*designing ideas to  
→ action*

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FALL 2023 REPORT

INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATION AND  
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT  
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

# PURPOSE and WELCOME

The Institute for Innovation and Global Engagement hosted the University of Washington NextGen Community of Practice (CoP) fall meeting on Sept. 21, 2023, in the Global Innovation and Design Lab. The purpose of the meeting was to share progress reports, provide updates from national-level meetings, hear from students, and engage in a design thinking session to plan the tri-campus work for the upcoming year. This report summarizes the day's activities.

The day opened with welcome remarks from Chancellor Sheila Edwards Lange, AVC Divya McMillin, and Dean Jodi Sandfort.

*Programs like NextGen are critical to academia and democracy....And right now democracy is really on life support. This work that you all are doing is so important.*

Shelia Edwards Lange, Chancellor  
UW Tacoma

*We begin global civic engagement with empathy and understanding of complex problems that people experience on the ground. This is where we find our solutions.*

Divya McMillin, Associate Vice Chancellor  
UW Tacoma

*It is clear we need to renovate democratic institutions and practices. And maybe the way we do that at UW is to have every student in any program to leave with a very clear sense of not only how their education has impacted their own lives, but also the larger public sector.*

Jodi Sandfort, Dean  
Evans School of Public Policy and Governance  
UW Seattle

## UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON NEXTGEN TRI CAMPUS MEETING

September 21, 2023  
10 AM – 2 PM  
UW TACOMA MLG 203



9:30 AM	DOORS OPEN   REFRESHMENTS
10 AM	<p>LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Danica Sterud Miller Puyallup Tribe of Indians</li> </ul> <p>WELCOME REMARKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chancellor Sheila Edwards Lange</li> <li>• Associate Vice Chancellor Divya McMillin</li> <li>• Dean Jodi Sandfort</li> </ul>
10:30 AM	<p>UPDATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UW Tacoma NextGen Civic Leader Corps Badge</li> <li>• Volcker Alliance Report on Assessment</li> <li>• UW National Support Meeting Report [UNO]</li> </ul>
11:20 AM	STUDENT PANEL
12 NOON	LUNCH
12:30 PM	THEMES OF NEED   AREAS OF COLLABORATION
12:45 PM	WORKING GROUPS   COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE
1:30 PM	ALL GROUP SHARE
1:45 PM	WRAP UP



L-R: Chancellor Lange, Dean Sandfort, AVC McMillin

# UPDATES

## Microcredential / Next Gen Badge

On behalf of the cross-campus UW Tacoma working group and NextGen Executive Committee, Dr. Jeremy Davis, Executive Director, Institute for Innovation and Global Engagement, shared updates on the development of the NextGen Civic Leader Corps Microcredential and Digital Badge. Students will enter a holistic experience of public service and graduate with a credential recognizable to their employers.



### KEY FEATURES:

- A 5 credit course emphasizing public service and community engagement.
- A 5 credit experiential learning course (e.g. internship or study abroad), emphasizing public service and community engagement.
- A minimum of three NextGen events hosted by UW Tacoma, tri-campus partners or Volcker Alliance.
- Canvas is the tracking and student messaging mechanism.
- Students write reflections on each program component.
- Badge solidifies identify and demonstrates an aspect of student college experience and elaborates on their interest in public service and leadership skills.
- With meta data behind badge potential employers can see what students accomplished.



Dr. Jeremy Davis presents on UW Tacoma's NextGen Microcredential and Digital Badge.

# UPDATES

## Student Year End Survey

Fran Lo, Executive Director, Community Engagement and Leadership Education (UW Seattle) and Andy Pace, NextGen Program Coordinator (UW Seattle) presented on the NextGen year end student survey that combined questions designed by Evans School of Public Policy & Governance and the Volcker Alliance.

### KEY FINDINGS:

- 73% of respondents intend to pursue a graduate degree.
- Majority of respondents were interested in pursuing employment in government sector followed by nonprofit sector.
- Respondents saw an increase in their understanding of the importance of cross-sector leadership addressing critical social issues, as well an understanding of foundational concepts of public policy.
- Respondents expressed an increased interest in the value of having a public service mindset.
- The aim in 2023- 24 is to have a shorter survey.
- Overall, respondents expressed a positive experience with NextGen



(L\_R) Fran Lo and Andy Pace present on the NextGen student year end survey.

What students got out of NextGen in their words:

- Friends
- Connections
- Network
- Meeting like-minded peers
- Meeting people from different majors
- Connection to opportunities
- Career exploration
- Connection between academics and experience
- Connection to national opportunities with Volcker Alliance.

# UPDATES

## Service Member Support Retreat

Carolyn Brennen, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Learning and Research (UW Bothell) and Mike Wark, NextGen Program Specialist (UW Tacoma) presented on the NextGen Service Member Support Retreat, which took place at the University of Nebraska, Omaha, September 8-9.

- Concept of tri-sector leadership (government, non-profit, and business) is almost synonymous with civic leadership.
- Honors students enroll in NextGen at higher rates than other students.
- Naomi Garcia Hector coordinates national network of student ambassadors.
- Programs vary widely by university. Many are connected to Public Affairs programs. Some use NextGen to increase enrollment, and/or expand connections to their community.
- University of Baltimore has a NextGen course (asynchronous) using the “Essentials of Public Service” textbook. They pay students \$250 at the start of the course and \$500 at the conclusion.
- Many schools have workshops to help students sort out the type of civic leadership they might pursue and to have effective internships.
- University of Houston brings together NextGen, computer science and data knowledge students to help nonprofits with technical needs through a “Hack-A-Thon.”
- NextGen helps students who are veterans connect service and sense of mission experienced in the military to a personal mission.
- Volcker aims to be in all 50 states in the next few years.
- Financial support for internships is important.
- Volcker has a \$3k quarterly scholarship for student’s public service internships.
- Volcker team considering a national badge.
- NextGen Connect is a national information resource for students.
- University of Baltimore was able to secure funding from state to help address shortage of state workers.
- Some federal grants fund experiential learning.



(L-R) Carolyn Brennen and Mike Wark present on the NextGen Service Member Support Retreat.

# STUDENT PANEL

*Andy Pace interviewed students about their NextGen experience and ideas to support the program. We've tried to capture students' words as much as possible.*

## How do you hear about /what inspired you to join NextGen?

- Class visit
- Through campus work program
- Evans School website

## What is your background, if any, in public service?

- Volunteer work from an early age
- Service integrated into upbringing
- Coursework at UW
- Experience of 2020 election

## The end of year survey told us that an important part of NextGen is community. How can we grow that community and support your connection with other students?

- Talk about leadership within different areas of the university (not just in public policy or political science) majors.
- Provide support for students to attend the national summit
- Create a NextGen minor or major with competitive selection (as other universities with NextGen programs have). Students take the same courses and participate in leadership retreats together, which builds community.
- Build structure around team chats.



(L-R) Andy Pace with students Esther , Nathan Loutsis, Jannat Musawi and Natalee Singleton talk about the student's experience in the NextGen program.

## How does your involvement in NextGen impact your public service training?

- Meeting other students with the same passions and goals.
- NextGen program events and resources prepare us for public speaking and help with other skills important to public service.
- Opportunities like going to Olympia and fellowships enhance what I want to do and where I want to go in my education and career.
- Volunteer opportunities, such as at the food bank.

# THEMES OF NEED & AREAS OF COLLABORATION

*Dr. Divya McMillin facilitated a design thinking session to move the group forward into practical steps for tri campus planning and collaboration. Brainstorming needs at multiple levels moved into affinity mapping for themes, and concluded with prototypes for iteration. Some prototypes were ready for execution, others sparked inspiration at the conceptual level.*



## Themes of Need

- Overall financial support
- Tri campus NextGen standards
- Translation of leadership to career
- Integration of tri-campus work
- Building strong student cohorts
- Internship and scholarship opportunities
- Data assessment tools
- Recruitment of students outside the social sciences
- Financial and connection opportunities for students
- Scalability of program
- Defining tri-campus collective impact

## Areas of Collaboration

- Local community programs for experiential learning
- Credentials
- Assessment
- Tri-campus programming
  - Signature events
  - Annual student retreat
  - Resources and structures
  - Student teams
  - Post-grad community
  - Programs across disciplines and schools

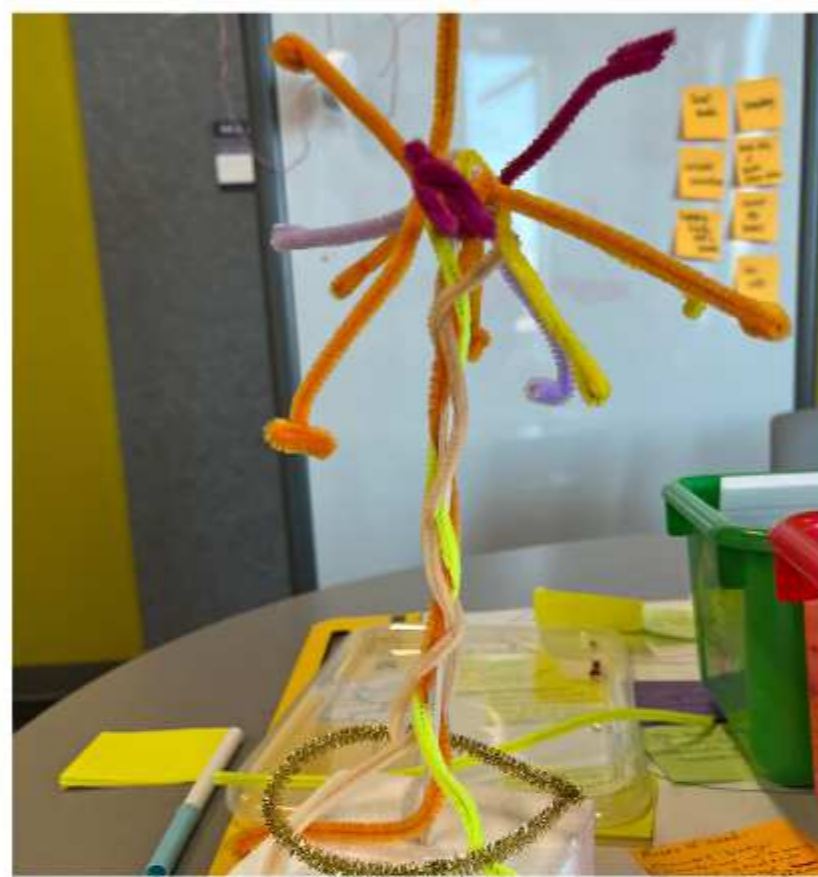
# WORKING GROUP PROTOTYPES

After identifying themes of need and areas of collaboration five themes were identified to move forward into prototyping. CoP members self selected into groups around the theme that most resonated with their work and/or goals. Groups were encouraged to create prototypes that were practical, scalable, and inclusive.

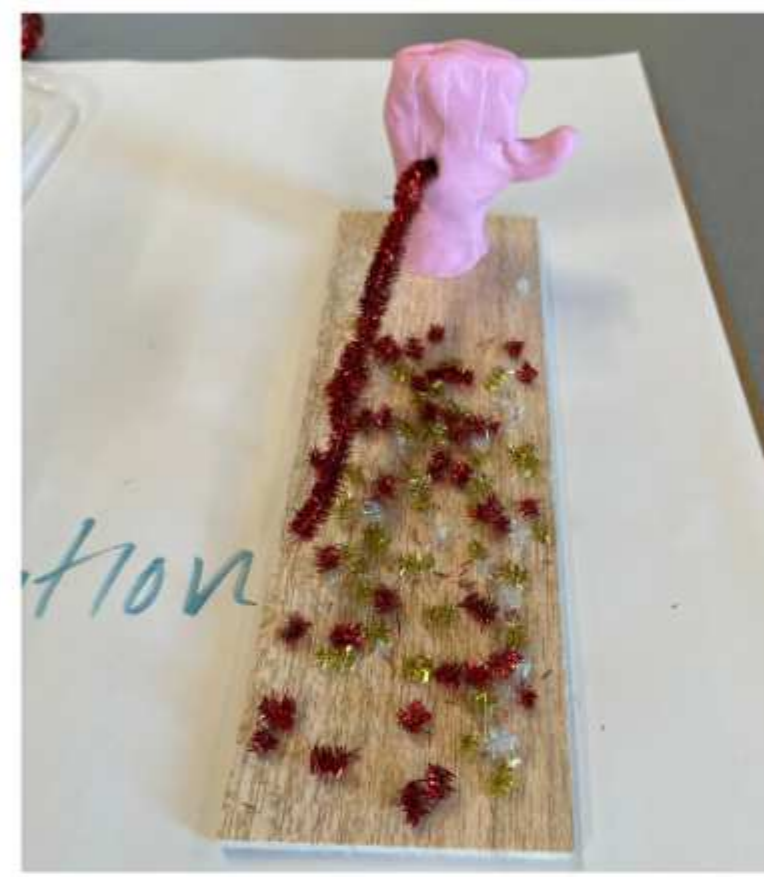
## PROTOTYPE 1: Recruitment Strategies Based in Connection



A mutual dedication to public service acts as the connective thread that brings together students, faculty, and staff.



Signature events act as the “hard structure” which anchor the connected elements together.



A sprinkling of fun and good will (glitter), stays with everyone involved.



Ideating with one sticky note per idea allowed groups to organize into themes and discuss how those themes could develop into practical and executable plans.



# WORKING GROUP PROTOTYPES

## PROTOTYPE 2: Tri-Campus Retreat

Annual NextGen tri-campus retreat with students at the center. Faculty and staff will scaffold the students with parameters, funding, and mentoring. Students will set the goals for the retreat. The goal is for this to be a time to share space, build the team and plan for the year ahead.



## PROTOTYPE 3: Funding and Partnerships

A model for sustainable partnerships: A solid base for public service is supported by team and individual experience, iteration, and funding, which are boosted by roots of development growing into the local community.



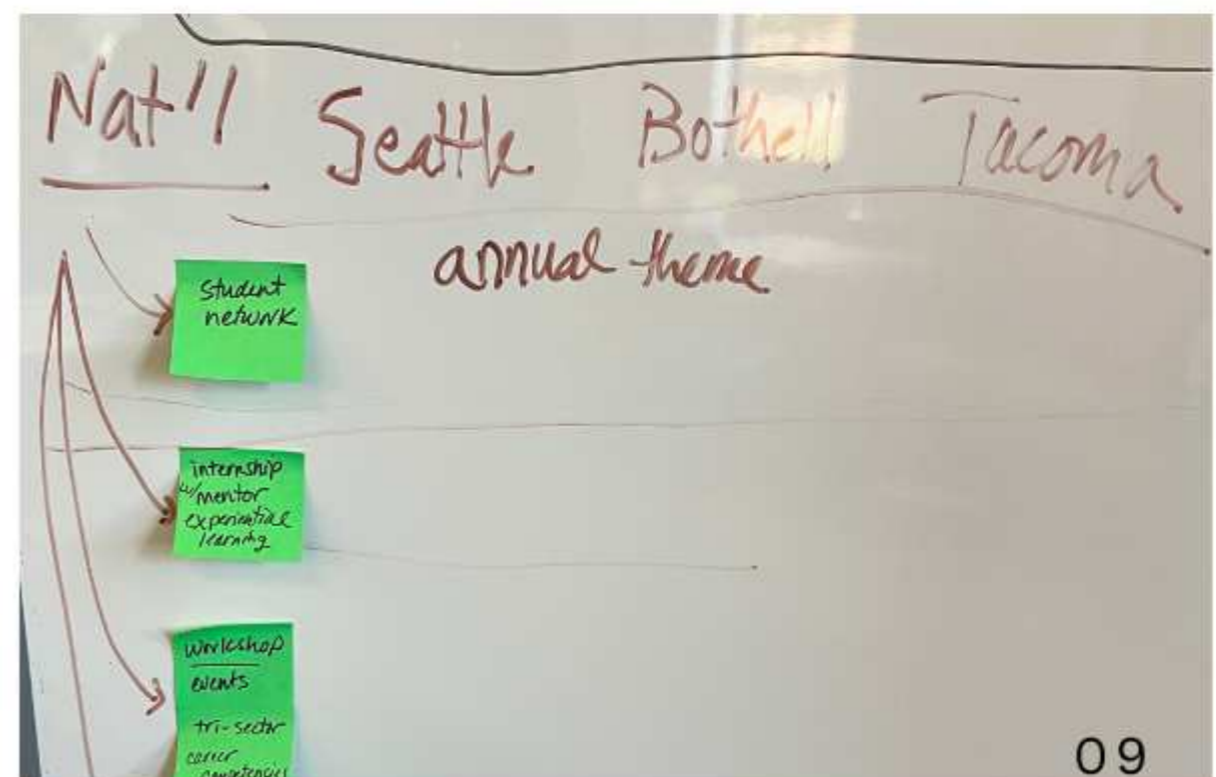
## PROTOTYPE 4: Student Identity and Belonging

A sheltering canopy formed by connections among 3 pillars, which reflect both the three campuses and the shared values of NextGen students. The shelter is open on all sides, allowing access from all directions.



## PROTOTYPE 5: Increasing Tri-Campus Impact

- Student Networks
- Internships with “mentor” experiential learning
- Workshop events
- Tri-campus learning objectives with Tri-sector career competencies
- Badge credential alignment with Volcker
- NextGen distinction on student’s transcripts





Thank you everyone for your spirit of play and collaboration to strengthen our tri-campus NextGen Community of Practice!

Special thanks to editors Janeil Engelstad and Divya McMillin, note-takers Sarah Newell and Jeremy Davis, and photographer Liz Hunt, for their work on this report.



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