

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP & POLICY ANALYSIS

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

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TITLE: Examining Boyer's Scholarship of Engagement: A Case Study of a Faculty  
Development Program

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This qualitative research study of the Wisconsin Idea Seminar, a faculty development program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, illustrates Boyer's scholarship of engagement (1996) using the seminar as a case study. The Wisconsin Idea seminar is an annual five-day tour of the state which introduces faculty to the concept of Wisconsin's land grant mission, otherwise known as the Wisconsin Idea, to the work of the university around the state and to the public service obligations of their appointments. How has the seminar experience influenced faculty perception of the institutional mission? How has it influenced their public service? To what extent does their perception of the experience coincide with subsequent changes in their public service scholarship?

This study is important because the faculty development literature is silent on faculty public service, focusing instead on improving research and teaching skills. What is missing is a discussion of the benefits to faculty of participating in public service which would be of interest to the more than 15 higher educational institutions who are conducting similar programs.

Using the constant comparative method for data analysis, data will be collected from a sample of the seminar's database of nearly 300 on-campus faculty participants from 1985–2007. Approximately 30 faculty participants' and stakeholders (administrators, deans, and department heads) will be interviewed. Additional indicators will be examined including participant's CV's, course syllabi, publications, and funding proposals.