

## **Improving Practical Political Science and Civic Engagement**

Program Innovation Award

*Peter Jacques and Kerstin Hamann, Department of Political Science*

This two-year project will dramatically improve the structure of political science internships, one of the critical civics components for majors in Political Science and International and Global Studies, where students work on campaigns and for political parties, non-governmental organizations, and other relevant sites. Currently, political science internships do not have an institutional link to other coursework. The department believes we should close this gap with integrated curriculum design structured to connect students more comprehensively to their coursework and internship experience. This project will develop a new “Certificate in Practical Politics” and build professional development into an internship sequence, adding a one-credit course preparing students for on-site work in political offices and other relevant locations. Further, we have developed permanent internship opportunities with committed supervisors, and will continue to build more of these relationships. We anticipate that the Certificate and new course will first be offered Fall 2017. The work to build the program begins in Fall 2016.