Miami lags well behind other metropolitan regions in indicators of civic well-being, including trust in elected officials, support for non-profit organizations, and engagement of institutions of higher learning with local needs. The University of Miami can play a significant role in reversing this trend.

OUR MISSION

To enhance university-community collaborations by engaging the university’s academic resources in the enrichment of civic and community life in South Florida.

THE NEED

Follow Us!  
www.miami.edu/civic

Office of Civic & Community Engagement  
civicengagement@miami.edu  
305-284-6636

Robin Bachin, Ph.D.  
Assistant Provost for Civic & Community Engagement
OUR GOALS

- Foster stronger connections between UM and the larger South Florida community.
- Coordinate existing University-wide efforts that promote community partnerships.
- Embed experiential learning more fully into the curriculum.
- Develop new courses in which community-based partnerships are central to course learning outcomes.
- Enhance existing courses by integrating community engagement into course curriculum.
- Work with Butler Center for Volunteer Service and Leadership Development to promote community service among students and link those experiences to experiential learning.
- Create new initiatives that bring multiple schools and disciplines together to work on shared community-based projects.

OUR INITIATIVES

Southridge High School Partnership
UM students partner with Southridge High School teachers in history and language arts to enhance the curriculum, give guest lectures, and mentor students. The goals are to promote a college-going culture among traditionally underserved students and to enable UM students to translate their research interests into practical classroom learning.

Focus on Affordable Housing
This initiative connects UM faculty and students with community partners to address strategies for improving housing options in Miami. In addition to offering courses that link students with community-based organizations, UM will host a series of public programs that bring together leading scholars, activists, developers, architects, and civic and political leaders to promote shared dialogue about how to better develop affordable housing in Miami.

Gables Fellows Program
This program is a paid internship with the City of Coral Gables that provides students with hands-on knowledge of the day-to-day operations of municipal government. The interns rotate through various city departments, including Economic Sustainability, Office of the Mayor, Office of the City Manager, Planning, Finance, and Parks and Recreation.

Imagining America Research Collaborative
This research collaborative will create a baseline of information regarding the role of civic engagement in undergraduate liberal arts education. It seeks to develop and implement a national framework for promoting civic engagement as the connective tissue between liberal arts education and the values and skills of civic professionalism in the workplace.

Good Government Initiative
Developed by former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Katy Sorenson, this initiative cultivates leaders of excellence in South Florida through the development and training of elected officials as well as those aspiring to run for office. It also seeks to engage the community in its governance through outreach and education.