



Apr 17th, 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

## Civic Engagement Through Social Organizations in Bloomington- Normal, Illinois

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Hillyer, Chelsey D.; Mudron, Bridget; and Amoloza, Faculty Advisor, Teodora, "Civic Engagement Through Social Organizations in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois" (2004). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 10.  
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Poster Presentation P20

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS IN  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL, ILLINOIS**

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As American citizens, active participation in our communities is expected. Since Robert Putnam's (2000) study of community involvement through social organizations, researchers have begun to report and forecast a decrease in participation. Many attribute this decrease to simple disinterest. However, structural variables resulting from recent shifts in social norms and advances in technology, in addition to established cultural variables, have introduced new ways in which American citizens participate in their communities. By randomly sampling and surveying residents from Bloomington-Normal, Illinois, this research establishes that community involvement is prevalent. By testing with regard to established cultural variables, such as religiosity and community pride, and newly-evolved structural variables, such as parenting of school aged children enrolled in school and internet access, this research emerges as an exploratory, though not comprehensive, study of factors affecting community involvement through social organizations.