The Binienda Center for Civic Engagement was established in the Spring of 2006 by a group of distinguished faculty at Worcester State University. Currently located in the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership Development (Student Center room 206) the mission of the Center is to challenge students and faculty to investigate social problems by examining their root causes in the classroom while simultaneously addressing them in the community. To accomplish this successfully, students and faculty are encouraged to work collaboratively with community partners to design effective research and service projects. We facilitate projects such as Jumpstart, a pre-school literacy program, alternative spring break trips, and other reciprocal partnerships with public, private and non-profit organizations in communities to address critical social issues. The hope of our civic engagement projects is that higher education institutions engender students’ civic learning through participation in civic engagement, academic coursework, extracurricular activities and off-campus programming. The goal of civic learning and civic engagement is to prepare individuals for effective democratic participation, which in turn promotes growth of healthy communities, global economic vitality, social and political well being, and positive human interactions. Faculty, staff, students and community partners needing support in civic learning and engagement practices are invited to contact Mariel Montanez at 508-929-8073 or Dr. Mark Wagner at 508-929-8635 or at WSU_BiniendaCenter@worcester.edu