

An Initiative with West Louisville

University Awarded Carnegie Designation

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has selected UofL for its Community Engagement Classification, a designation that was developed to recognize colleges and universities that are deeply engaged in their communities.

UofL is one of 119 schools nationwide and four schools approved in 2008 in Kentucky to receive Carnegie's highest designation in two areas: curricular engagement, and outreach & partnerships.

UofL President James Ramsey said, "We are honored to be recognized as a university closely tied to its larger community. This designation enforces our key role and helps illustrate our accountability to the commonwealth."

The directive that led to the submission of the UofL application to the Carnegie Foundation is found in the university's strategic plan known as "The 2020 Plan: Making it Happen." Community Engagement is a major theme of the strategic plan with the goal to achieve national recognition as an engaged metropolitan university. A specific objective of the plan was to become designated as a community engagement institution by the Carnegie Foundation.

The Carnegie Foundation noted that UofL's application documented excellent alignment among mission, culture, leadership, re-

sources and products that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement. The Signature Partnership Initiative was one of several UofL programs that were noted as an exemplary institutionalized practice of community engagement.

Connie Shumake, Assistant Provost for Accreditation, Academic Planning and Engagement, led a university-wide work group in a self-study process that resulted in a 38 page report and website that outlines broadly the university's commitment to community engagement.

Ms. Shumake recently joined the staff of the Office of Community Engagement part-time to play a leadership role in the data collection and assessment functions pertaining to university-wide community engagement, including the Signature Partnership Initiative. Ms. Shumake will split her time between the Office of the Provost and the Office of Community Engagement.

The Carnegie application can be viewed in its entirety at www.louisville.edu/communityengagement/carnegie-community-engagement-process-2008/carnegie.html.



Connie Shumake, Assistant Provost for Accreditation, Academic Planning and Engagement

Selected highlights from the Carnegie submission

- * In the past three years, UofL has expended over \$177.4 million on public service activities.
- * Project Women and the University worked together to build Family Scholar House on property adjacent to the university with a child development center that serves the residents and the university.
- * UofL students are fully committed to leading community engagement efforts. More than 30 Greek organizations initiate and manage their own service activities. They provided 32,000 service hours during the 2007-08 school year.
- * The university contributes over 7.5 percent of its annual budget to public service which includes community awareness and outreach.



UofL Fraternity & Sorority members serving lunch at a service project during Greek week.



Family Scholar House Ribbon Cutting on October 7, 2008

West Louisville Receives Grants

The Community Foundation of Louisville recently awarded a Change Maker Partnership Award to New Directions Housing Corporation on October 21, 2008. The foundation awarded \$150,000 to “The California Collaborative” formed by two convening partners—the California Block Club Federation and the California Neighborhood Coalition—and seven collaborative partners including the University of Louisville. The California Collaborative will launch a neighborhood management system inspired by the NeighborWorks America model for robust neighborhood revitalization. The Collaborative will utilize a variety of strategies to develop and promote a positive image of California as a neighborhood with sound environmental practices, wireless Internet access, and a vibrant arts scene for community residents.

The Anthem Foundation funds program for Rubbertown residents to get health screenings. The \$600,000 grant will make it possible for West Louisville residents who are at risk for cardiovascular disease to receive follow up health screenings.

During a 2007 wellness program sponsored by UofL and Louisville Metro Department of Public Health & Wellness, some West Louisville residents were determined to have health risks. These residents will now be able to receive follow up care and additional screenings.

The grant is the largest grant awarded by the foundation in Kentucky in recent history, and it also reflects the organization’s on-going commitment to support initiatives that provide greater access to care for targeted communities. “We are pleased to partner with the university on such an important initiative that will make a difference in the lives of many,” said Deb Moessner, president of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

UofL President James Ramsey said, “This is a great example of a community partnership with a common goal. Working with West Louisville residents to improve their health is at the heart of our mission as a premier metropolitan research university, which includes improving life in our community and promoting equity and social justice.”



President Ramsey at press conference announcing Anthem Grant on October 9, 2008.



(Left) Dr. Sumanth Prabhu (MD), UofL cardiologist and (right) Dr. Aruni Bhatnagar (PhD), director of the Environmental Cardiology program, discuss the details of the Anthem grant.

SIGNATURE PARTNERSHIP GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The Office of Community Engagement is pleased to announce the Signature Partnership Initiative Faculty Grants (SPIF). The SPIF is an initiative to foster UofL faculty and staff initiatives within the West Louisville community. This grant program will focus on infrastructure development, research and non-research projects which hold a community participatory action perspective. A total of \$25,000 is available for the 2008-2010 academic year. Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate multidisciplinary collaboration. Applications must identify and address one or more of the Signature Partnership focus areas: *Education, Economic Development, Health, and Social & Human Services.*

Application deadline: April 17, 2009

For more information visit <http://louisville.edu/communityengagement/spif-grants.html>

Engineering Students Assist West Louisville Boys Academy

Last semester students from the Speed School of Engineering applied knowledge learned in the classroom to a community project. As part of a Civil and Environmental Engineering course, taught by Dr. Louis F. Cohn, students used many aspects of their engineering knowledge (structural, transportation, geotechnical, water resources, etc.) to address a complex challenge confronting the West Louisville school.

The UofL engineering students were challenged to develop multiple uses for sloping property on the campus site that would also accommodate competitive athletic activity. As a part of this culminating experience, the Speed engineering students also worked on changing topography and drainage to facilitate better use of the west end of the property near the interstate highway.

The West End School, founded by Headmaster Robert Blair and his wife Debbie, is a private middle school for at-risk boys. It is located in the former Virginia Avenue Colored School which was designed and built in 1923 by Samuel Plato, one of America's first African-American architects. The building is on the National Register of Historical Places and has a rich history in Louisville's African-American community.

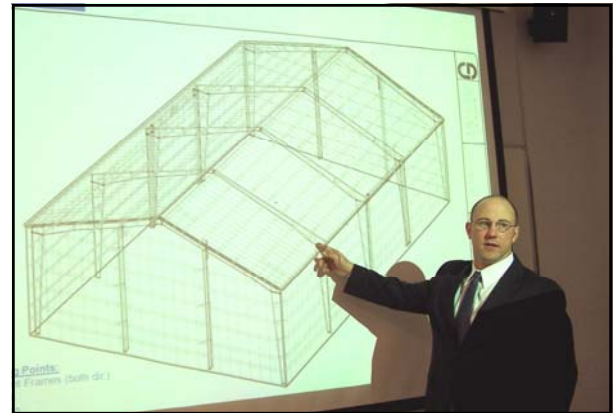
In December, the UofL students presented a report with preliminary plans and concepts to Mr. Blair, practicing engineers, and faculty members describing how the school property could be altered to accommodate a new gymnasium, a rain garden, a new parking lot, and a patio/teaching facility that could be used as a wetland to teach students about ecology. Dr. Eileen McFall, Ideas to Action Specialist for Culminating Experiences stated, "The students' presentation was quite comprehensive and professional, and the benefits to the clients were clear. I think the students' work had tremendous value in shaping Mr. Blair's thinking, planning, fundraising, and development." UofL students and faculty from the Mechanical Engineering Department and the Bingham Clinic have also assisted the school in the past year. Mr. Blair expressed his appreciation for the university's commitment to community engagement and how it has enhanced his work with disadvantaged children in the west end.

The work of the UofL students saved the school thousands of dollars that would have been spent on professional fees.



Pictured left: Civil & Environmental Engineering student surveys the property area of the West End School.

Pictured right: Student Stan Stoll describes the structural system suggested for the gymnasium during the presentation to the West End School.



West Louisville Performing Arts Academy

Honors President Ramsey

UofL President Dr. James Ramsey received the West Louisville Performing Arts Academy Hope Award during the organization's annual award dinner and concert on Thursday, December 11, 2008. President Ramsey was honored for his commitment to west Louisville and the creation of the university's Signature Partnership Initiative. The Signature Partnership promotes improved living standards and economic opportunities in Louisville's urban core and focuses on education, economic development, health, and social and human services. More than 1,700 UofL faculty, staff and students have participated in the partnership.

Since 2001, UofL has offered scholarship opportunities to choir members who remain in good standing with the choir, graduate from high school, and meet UofL's admission criteria. One former choir member has already graduated from UofL as a result of this scholarship program, and another former choir member is currently enrolled at UofL.



Pictured at left is McDaniel Bluitt, founder and director of the West Louisville Performing Arts Academy and in the center, board chair Ray Dickison as they present UofL President Dr. James Ramsey (right) with the Hope Award.

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UofL Provost Shirley Willihnganz speaks to TCP Scholars at their Induction Ceremony at Western Middle School on October 23, 2008.



- ◆ **Congratulations** to Dr. Adewale Troutman for his appointment to the National Committee on Childhood Obesity. This committee will examine existing childhood obesity prevention initiatives and look at implementation and replication of the initiatives in other jurisdictions. Dr. Troutman serves on the University Community Partnership Advisory Board.
- ◆ **Congratulations** to Western Middle School student Steven Harris for being honored at the Kentucky Middle School Association conference in September as a 2008 scholarship winner. Last school year, he was an honor roll eighth grade student and a TCP Scholar.
- ◆ **Congratulations** to UofL professor Joe Hagerty for being awarded the KAS Superlative Faculty Award from the Kentucky Academy of Science (KAS) in the teaching category.
- ◆ **Congratulations** to Central High School for being honored with a bronze medal by U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools list and for claiming their 2nd consecutive 3-A Kentucky football championship title.