

An Initiative with West Louisville

Business and Workforce Development Center Launched

The University of Louisville and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet recently signed an agreement to establish a Business Opportunity and Workforce Development (BOWD) Center. The center will provide services to 20 disadvantaged businesses (DBE's) to enable them to compete successfully for state highway construction contracts. The BOWD Center will also train 50 individuals for highway construction related jobs.

"Given the tremendous amount of current and future construction taking place in our region, it is imperative that we help make sure that minorities and disadvantaged businesses get a good share of the action," states Ellen Briscoe, Project Manager for the BOWD Center. This two-year pilot program will have a \$2 million budget. UofL will help coordinate the program as part of the Signature Partnership Initiative. Faculty and students from the business school will provide consulting services to DBE's. The consulting services will include business planning, marketing, financial management,

bond assistance, and technical training. The services will be provided at offices the BOWD Center recently opened at the NIA Center located at 29th and West Broadway. The university will partner with the Louisville Urban League and the Presbyterian Community Center to provide workforce development training to 50 individuals who desire a career in the highway construction industry. The individuals will be trained and placed in apprenticeship type programs. The goal is to place these 50 individuals in good-paying permanent jobs within two years.

"The BOWD Center is a wonderful opportunity to jump-start the economic development component of the Signature Partnership Initiative," states Dr. Ralph Fitzpatrick, Associate Vice President for External Affairs, who will be coordinating the university's participation in the program.

For more information, contact Ellen Briscoe at (502) 852-0270.



Ellen Briscoe meets with Robert Springfield of Springfield Plumbing Co.

A Message from..... Co-Chair, Residents Advisory Council

As Co-Chair of the Signature Partnership's West Louisville Residents Advisory Council, I want to commend the University for its commitment to the revitalization of West Louisville. Over the past two years, I have witnessed progress in the areas of education, economic development, health, and social and human services. As a teacher with Jefferson County Public Schools, I am particularly encouraged with the educational initiative for Atkinson Elementary, Portland Elementary, Western Middle, and Central and Shawnee High School. Our

community has an achievement gap which continually impacts youth from socio-economically deprived backgrounds.

Through the Signature Partnership Initiative, we have begun to tackle some of the issues that contribute to this gap. At our last meeting, it was exciting to hear about the new Cardinal Covenant Scholarship program that will provide scholarship and financial aid opportunities for students from low income families. This program, modeled after the University of North Carolina's program which began in 2003, is one of the most exciting and innovative scholarship program initiatives that has ever hit Metropolitan Louisville. Although we are focusing strongly on the areas of Health, Economic Development, Social and Human Services, we realize that a quality education is often the key to breaking out from under the vicious

cycle of poverty and poor health.

The Residents Advisory Council is working with UofL and other community partners to create a new leadership paradigm for our community. This includes more businesses and entrepreneurs, as well as, medical, law, education, science & technology professionals. These are the kinds of intellectual discussions that the Residents Advisory Council engages in during our bi-monthly meetings. The council also takes into serious consideration that all young people will not attend college and can benefit from vocation opportunities like the current one under way with the KY Department of Transportation.

In closing, my hope is that the UofL Signature Partnership Initiative, the University Community Partnership Advisory Board, and the Residents Advisory Council will continually strive to perfect its efforts in the identification of new programs and the sustainability of existing ones for the betterment of our community.

By Kathleen Parks, Co-Chair of the Residents Advisory Council and a teacher with Jefferson County Public Schools.



Co-Chairs, Keith Bertrand and Kathleen Parks address the Residents Advisory Council

Mobile Health Unit Unveiled

On February 13th at Western Middle School, President James Ramsey, Mayor Jerry Abramson, and Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness Director Adewale Troutman dedicated a mobile health unit that will help provide residents in medically underserved areas with health care. The unit will be used in collaboration with UofL School of Dentistry and JCPS. Its main use will be to bring preventive dental services and immunizations to elementary and middle school children. The fully equipped, multifunctional 40 foot unit was purchased with a grant from the United States Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The mobile unit also visited Atkinson Elementary in late April and early May.



Left: UofL President James Ramsey and others tour the new mobile health unit, that made its first stop at Western Middle School.



Right: Dr. Lee Mayer, Faculty Liaison for the Signature Partnership and director of Community Dental Health at the Dental School, treats a young patient in the new mobile health unit.

Celebrating Residents Advisory Council

The role of the Residents Advisory Council is to provide input and suggestions for the development of the Signature Partnership Initiative in West Louisville. The Council meets bi-monthly and receives regular updates from the Office of External Affairs on the progress of the initiative and provides ongoing advice to insure that the views and perspectives of the residents of West Louisville are adequately represented and addressed.

In appreciation of council members service to the Signature Partnership, a reception was held in their honor on January 23, 2007 at the University Club. All members received a Certificate of Appreciation and a gift bag full of goodies. Musical entertainment was provided by Christ's Church for Our Community P.R.A.I.S.E. team.

Members Include—

Left to Right: Tamika Miller, Keneka Cheatham, Annie Blackshear, Gracie Lewis, Vicki-Hines Martin, Kathleen Parks (Co-Chair), Bishop Walter Jones, Jr., Pam Osborne, Quintilla Weathers, Keith Bertrand (Co-Chair), Sherri Chandler, Gwen Kelly, Fran Thomas, and Martyna Warren.

Not pictured: John Barrow, Michael Brooks, and Ann English



Philip Morris Grant for West Louisville

The Signature Partnership Initiative received another boost when Philip Morris USA awarded a \$120,000 grant to support the West Louisville economic development revitalization initiative being undertaken by Greater Louisville, Inc., Louisville Metro, and the University of Louisville. The grant will be split between two projects. One project will focus on developing a master plan for revitalizing the Park Hill industrial corridor. The plan will guide efforts at land assembly and redevelopment for commercial and industrial businesses, residents and other area stakeholders. The second project involves enhancement of The Collaborative program that utilizes business school faculty and students to provide technical and consulting services for small to mid-sized companies in economically distressed areas of greater Louisville. UofL President James Ramsey noted that, "This grant will be a significant boost for the Signature Partnership that focuses on working with community partners to revitalize West Louisville."

For more information about this project, contact DeVone Holt at GLI, (502) 625-0134.

Conversations Lead to Community Action

Using a study circle to build community capacity and address the need for more parental and community involvement in the neighborhood schools, a Signature Partnership Initiative with New Directions Housing Corporation resulted in an organized community clean-up on Saturday morning, March 31, 2007. Dr. Anne Banks from the Office of External Affairs facilitated the Pillars of Portland (POP) study circle that met weekly starting in February. This diverse group included stay-at-home moms, middle-school teens, an elementary school principal, a middle school outreach coordinator, and other community residents.

Saundra Mucker, who lives in West Louisville said, "This has been a wonderful experience. I'm glad to be at the table helping to make our community stronger and feel that each of us needs to contribute to our neighborhoods." Things did "POP" that Saturday morning when the Pillars of Portland sponsored the clean-up fair in conjunction with the Mayor's annual Brightside campaign. Approximately 75 volunteers divided into clean up crews, and equipped with gloves, bags,

petitions, and a neighborhood survey worked to brighten up the streets around Atkinson Elementary and Western Middle School. Work ended around noon and a community celebration began at Atkinson complete with food, music, games, and prizes. Atkinson's principal, Dewey Hensley, expressed his excitement from the outpouring of community support for this event and looked forward to sustaining the energy displayed on March 31st to increase parental and community involvement with the schools.

Special thanks to the following businesses and organizations for their part in making this day a success: Eat Cheap Restaurant, Entenmann's of Southern Indiana, Neighborhood Engagement, and Youth for Christ. The Pillars of Portland study circle plans to team up with three other study circles for future community action projects. The other groups are The California Neighborhood Youth Project, Youth Build, and Meyzeek Clean Team. These groups will focus on issues such as neighborhood safety and cleanliness, jobs, connections between schools and

community, and developing communication with neighbors. Members from each of the four study circle groups will meet on a monthly basis to address these issues in the California, Shawnee, Shelby Park, and Portland neighborhoods.

For more information on study circles, visit www.ndhc.org.



Residents taking an active part in the neighborhood clean-up campaign in Portland.

A Message from.....

Co-Chair, University Community Partnership Board



Laura Rothstein
leadership position in our partnership with West Louisville and to follow the example of Louis Brandeis in being part of our initiative with West Louisville.

Justice Louis D. Brandeis, for whom the law school at the University of Louisville is named, believed that a law school and a university should be part of its community development. It is an honor to serve in a

leadership position in

including programs relating to health, human and social services and economic development. Just as the decisions about focus were made with the involvement of the University Community Partnership Advisory Board, a Unit Faculty Liaison Board, and a West Louisville Resident Advisory Council, the individuals in these groups will continue to provide the synergy and energy to develop and enhance these programs. This newsletter will continue to highlight some of these programs. In future newsletters, we will tell you about ways in which you can be involved.

From 2003, when as law school dean I engaged in discussions with the Provost and other deans about this initiative, to my January 2006 appointment to the Partnership Advisory Board, and to my appointment as co-chair, I have been quite energized by this initiative. It is a particular honor to work with Sam Watkins (Executive Director of the Louisville Central Community Centers) in this exciting implementation stage. We look forward to being able to continue to share news of these efforts, and we applaud President Ramsey and Provost Willihnganz for their commitment to this Initiative.

Laura Rothstein is Professor of Law and Distinguished University Scholar at the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, University of Louisville, where she served as dean from 2000 to 2005.

Spring is an appropriate time to launch the University Community Signature Partnership Initiative. The plans and discussions that had been taking hold are beginning to flower and emerge. The initial efforts on university community collaborations and partnerships began in 2003-04 when academic units were asked to forward information to the central administration about their university community partnerships. When the university learned that there are more than 1,400 community partnerships or engagements involving the university and the community, we decided to focus enhanced efforts in West Louisville, initially prioritizing education, but also



Provost Shirley Willihnganz, Sam Watkins, (Co-Chair), and Laura Rothstein (Co-Chair) participate in a University Community Partnership Advisory Board Meeting at Central High School

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Christ's Church for Our Community P.R.A.I.S.E. team provides entertainment for Residents Advisory Council Reception. (See story inside.)

Signature Partnership Goal Statement

In collaboration with community partners, enhance the quality of life for residents in west Louisville by improving the overall educational attainment levels to equal those of Metro Louisville in general, through the integrated enhancement of health, social and economic viability of the community.

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Did you Know?

- Since the inception of the Every 1 Reads initiative, 6,500 community volunteers have served as reading tutors. UofL has contributed the largest number of volunteers— 638 tutors, nearly 10% of the volunteers.
- Faculty Liaison, Dr. Lee Mayer, was a 2007 Celebration of Faculty Excellence Honoree for Distinguished Service.
- Faculty Liaison, Dr. Vicki Hines-Martin, was a 2007 Celebration of Faculty Excellence Honoree for Exemplary Multicultural Teaching.
- West Louisville is home to over 1500 businesses.
- Susan Rhodes, External Affairs Administrative Services Manager was the recipient of the “Unsung Shero” Award given by the Women of Color Transformation Tea.