

UofL Engagement

Partnerships for a better community.

August 2010

Signature Partnership Receives a Million Dollar Gift

The College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) is directly involved in the Signature Partnership Initiative (SPI) through its support of the five SPI schools. The CEHD's most active partnerships are with the J.B. Atkinson Elementary Academy for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and The Academy at Shawnee (formerly Shawnee High School). The partnership has resulted in student teacher placements at the schools and a pilot cohort of teachers who will pursue National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification.

To support the pilot program, the Mary K. Oxley Foundation has pledged a gift of \$1 million dollars which will also assist it in becoming a sustainable model for teacher training and comprehensive professional development. In addition, the funding will help recruit and retain more high potential teachers and provide them with resources to pursue NBPTS certification.

"We are very excited about the possibilities this gift has created for the future of teaching and learning at the SPI schools. Working with the students and teachers at Atkinson has been very inspiring for all of us at the College," stated Dr. Blake Haselton, Interim Dean for the College of Education and Human Development.

By Dorothy Vieth, Director Marketing & Communications, College of Education and Human Development



Ernesto Castro-Falconi, CEHD teacher education student, assists Atkinson Elementary student

UofL Strengthens Partnership with Simmons College

The University of Louisville and Simmons College of Kentucky have signed an agreement designed to boost the higher educational opportunities for African American students, particularly those from west Louisville.

Simmons' President Kevin Cosby announced the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two Louisville schools at a news conference April 27.

The agreement calls for UofL to work with Simmons to align the schools' general education requirements and eventually allow credit hour exchanges and dual degrees. Kentucky's new transfer legislation will make it easier for Simmons' students to transfer all of their credits toward a four-year degree at UofL.

Simmons is a 131-year-old historically black institution whose current campus building was sold to UofL in 1930 and became Louisville Municipal College. Cosby envisioned re-opening Simmons College and acquired the original property at 7th and Kentucky streets in 2005. Simmons is now a Bible-based college with an urban mission and about 300 students.

"The MOU will further UofL's reach into the black community and allow an expansion of its Signature Partnership," said UofL Provost Shirley Willihnganz. Willihnganz said UofL students also can benefit from some of the "speciality programs" at Simmons.

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Dr. Kevin Cosby, President of Simmons College of Kentucky and UofL President James Ramsey sign a partnership agreement between the two schools.

Photo provided by Gwen Blackburn

Signature Partnership

Simmons continued

“This historic agreement is further proof of UofL’s commitment to providing an affordable education to all who seek to better their lives. It’s also a testament to Rev. Cosby’s persistence in seeking partnerships and opportunities for those who are less fortunate,” said UofL President James Ramsey.

“Through hard work and discipline, students who might never have entered college can enter Simmons and then transfer credits to our partnering colleges and universities like University of Louisville,” said Dr. Cosby. He said the agreement with UofL will open doors to a four-year degree and a standard of living that many children from west Louisville never thought possible.

Cosby is pastor of St. Stephen Baptist Church and is a member of the UofL Board of Trustees.

By UofL Communications and Marketing

UofL Leading the Way For Promise Neighborhoods

Children who are from low-income families and grow up in high-poverty neighborhoods face academic and life challenges above and beyond the challenges faced by children who are not from low-income families nor grow up in neighborhoods full of poverty. The Promise Neighborhoods program developed by the U.S. Department of Education will award one-year planning grants to support the development of a plan to implement a Promise Neighborhood that includes high-quality early learning programs, high-quality schools, and comprehensive supports to ensure that students are safer, healthy and successful. The idea is to transform neighborhoods through the comprehensive efforts of extended partnerships.

The University of Louisville (UofL) is leading this partnership that includes Jefferson County Public Schools, Metro Louisville Government (Agencies), Metro United Way, PNC Bank, community based organizations and the residents in the 40212 zip code (Portland, Russell, and Shawnee) neighborhoods. The Promise Neighborhoods planning grant requires communities to think about how they will engage families, young people, and other residents in planning and implementation. Applicants are required to involve the community in the development of the plan and make sure that leaders and members of the community participate in analyzing progress toward the project’s goals. The Steering Council of the 40212 Promise Neighborhood will include residents who will “have an active role in the organization’s decision making.”

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Promise Neighborhoods continued

This initiative is about investing in the future of children from birth through college by building a pipeline of social, educational, and health supports in the 40212 community that will have a lasting impact and change lifestyles.

By Ralph Fitzpatrick, Associate Vice President for Community Engagement

Alzheimer’s Disease Conference

A conference on “Lifestyle Changes to Prevent Dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease in African Americans” was held on Friday, May 21, 2010 at the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, KY. More than 60 participants attended the conference.

The keynote address entitled “An Update on Alzheimer’s Disease and Prevention” was given by Dr. Patrick Griffith from Morehouse University School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Robert Freidland (UofL Neurology Department) discussed lifestyle changes that can lower risk of getting Alzheimer’s Disease.

Rev. Frank M. Smith, Jr., Pastor of Christ’s Church for Our Community and a member of the University Community Partnership Advisory Board, was a very powerful and magnificent luncheon speaker and received a standing ovation for his inspiring talk of his personal experience of coping with the disease.



Alzheimer’s Disease Conference Presenters: Dr. Robert Friedland, Pastor Frank M. Smith Jr., and Dr. Patrick Griffith

Panel members Drs. Karen Robinson and Vicki Hines-Martin (UofL School of Nursing) discussed care needed to sustain the caregivers. Hines-Martin encouraged audience members to become active participants with UofL’s Alzheimer’s initiatives. Robinson invited participation in the School of Nursing Caregivers program. This program of research is a free service to the community and provides caregiver education and support.

To learn more about The Caregivers Program, call 502-852-2273.

By Karen Robinson, Professor and Executive Director, Volunteer Caregivers Program

Community Engagement

Art Ark Comes to UofL Campus

The Art Ark is a mobile exhibition created by University of Louisville Fine Art students under the direction of Professor Mary Carothers. During the spring semester of 2010, each student interviewed individuals who immigrated to Louisville from countries around the world. After the students learned of each participant's reasons for leaving home, they then produced poetic furniture as a response to the cultural realm of story telling. As furniture is most often associated with home-life, the works in "The Art Ark" spoke of up-rooting ones comfort zone with the quest of finding another.

In an effort to share the collection with a broader audience, the Art Ark became a moving truck transformed into a mobile gallery space. As the truck moved from one neighborhood into another, the artists shared the voices of many people of the world. The final work was also displayed at Louisville Visual Arts Association and can now be viewed along with a broader scope of the semester's activity at www.collaborativeprojects2010.blogspot.com.

By Mary Carothers, Professor, Fine Arts



Top: Art student Lucy Brown created a bed with custom printed sheets and pillow cases. Right: Art student Crystal Ludwick points out pieces of her art exhibit featured on The Art Ark to VP Daniel Hall. Bottom: Art student Mitchell Noah holds his design of a red glass crocodile tail lamp.



Design Course Off to a Successful Start

This past spring marked the initial offering of a new course, Design for Public Issues, in the Bachelor of Fine Arts program for Communication Art & Design students. The course, which may be taken during their final semester, provides a service learning opportunity that draws on the student's accumulated knowledge and experience from their graphic design classes.

Working on teams of three, graphic design students worked with non-profit organizations to develop a cohesive system of visual communications materials (such as information brochures, websites, promotional posters, announcements). Targeted materials were identified by the client and the student design team that would both

- effectively communicate the information, and
- provide a stronger visual identity for the organization.

The overall goal was to increase awareness, involvement, and support for these non-profit organizations.

At the end of the semester the students turned over the files to the non-profits, along with graphic standards guidelines, so that the organizations can produce any of the materials that were designed. The results were an amazing array of professional-level design work that met and exceeded expectations. Students were very engaged, dealing with real-world clients and project parameters, and feeling like they could really see how their design work can make a difference.

Feedback from the non-profit organizations was also extremely positive:

"Let me just say - YOU ALL ROCK! We are blown away by the 1st drafts!! Thank you for infusing your passion and creativity into our vision for "flourishing youth!" The quality of work you produced would have cost us more than \$5,000. Please realize you all are SIGNIFICANTLY building capacity for hundreds of youth."
John Mark Eberhardt, Executive Director, The Steward's Staff, Inc.

Other non-profit organizations that benefitted from the student's design work were Center For Neighborhoods and StandUP for Kids Louisville.

By Leslie Frieson, Power Creative Designer- in- Residence, Hite Art Institute



Sylvia Johnson, Director of Operations and John Mark Eberhardt, Executive Director of The Steward's Staff, display their artwork designed by the graphic design students.

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Save the Dates

Center for Neighborhoods Neighborhood Institute

Each Monday night, August 2 to October 11, 2010
Held at The Academy @ Shawnee (formerly Shawnee High School)
Dinner is provided and all neighborhoods are welcome

For more information, visit www.centerforneighborhoods.org
or call 502.589.0343

Outstanding Community Engagement Awards & Reception

Thursday, October 21, 2010
6:00 - 7:30 PM
Chao Auditorium, Ekstrom Library

The 2nd Annual recognition awards for faculty, staff, students and community partners who are involved in outstanding community engagement.

Sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Office of Community Engagement

5th Annual Kentucky Engagement Conference

(Hosted by the University of Louisville)
Friday, November 19, 2010
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Galt House Hotel & Suites

For more information, visit the conference website at
<http://louisville.edu/communityengagement/2010-kentucky-engagement-conference>

Grant Award Winners

Signature Partnership Initiative Grant for Graduate Students (Awarded by CODRE and the Office of Community Engagement)

- *Sula Marie Hood*, Health Promotion and Behavioral Science
“Understanding support group and survey preferences for urban African Americans with type-2 diabetes: A qualitative pilot study”, \$1,000

Office of Community Engagement Faculty Grant Program (Awarded by Office of Community Engagement)

- *Dr. Vicki Hines-Martin*, School of Nursing, **“Dosker Manor Assessment Project”**, \$8,300
- *Dr. Deborah Winders Davis*, Department of Pediatrics, Child Development Unit, **“Formative Evaluation of an Educational Program on Child Sexual Abuse”**, \$8,300
- *Dr. Muriel Harris*, School of Public Health & Information Sciences, **“Providing a Safe and Quality Environment for Residents for the Smoketown Community Through Reclaiming Green Space”**, \$8,300