

# UofL Engagement

Partnerships for a better community.

December 2009

## UofL named one of America's Top 25 'Best Neighbors'

UofL ranked 12th in the "Saviors of Our Cities: A Survey of Best College and University Civic Partnerships" survey unveiled at the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) meeting Oct. 12 in Philadelphia.

For more than 200 years, the University of Louisville has had a major impact on the economic and social welfare of the Louisville community. This national study now recognizes the university as one of the nations' best at community engagement.

Conducted by Evan S. Dobelle, president of Westfield State College in Massachusetts and former president of the New England Board of Higher Education, the survey highlights programs that "have demonstrated and documented long-standing cooperative efforts with community leaders to rehabilitate the cities around them, to influence community revitalization and cultural renewal, and to encourage economic expansion of the local economy, urban development and community service."

A comprehensive questionnaire was distributed widely to colleges and universities with assistance from the American Council on Education (ACE) and Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU). The criteria included :

- Length of involvement with the community
- Real dollars invested
- Faculty and student involvement in community service
- Continued sustainability of neighborhood initiatives
- Effect on local students access and affordability to attend college through K-12 partnerships
- Quantifiable increase in positive recognition of the institution
- Recognition of the impact of these institutions within their community
- Increase in student applications and resources raised through renewed alumni giving

Daniel Hall, Vice President for Community Engagement said, "This recognition affirms that UofL is truly making a

difference in our community-not just in one area, but across the board with many university/community partnerships that have a positive impact on K-12, health care, economic development and other quality of life factors."

Hall mentioned that the Signature Partnership Initiative, UofL's effort to help revitalize west Louisville, has clearly played a role in building the university's reputation as a good neighbor.

"But the Signature Partnership is just one of many programs that set us apart," he said. "We could go on and on...Scholar House, Ideas to Action, neighborhood revitalization with the Province, etc. The award reflects our institutional commitment to being a good neighbor on many fronts."

Dobelle said, "Colleges and universities, as well as the towns and cities in which they are located, are now under severe economic pressures. The positive financial impact of higher education on local communities is well-documented. Increasingly, more sophisticated partnerships are emerging that are addressing complex issues such as homelessness and health care and are serving as catalysts for community change. Colleges and universities are doing more and more to support their local communities, and it is a win-win situation for both."

*By UofL Communications and Marketing*



Kalin Hill, and her four-year old daughter Nasjae Baker are participating in the Toddler Book Club event at the Family Scholar House Early Learning Campus. Hill graduates from UofL in December with a BS in Communications.

**The Signature Partnership is just one of many programs that set us apart**

# Community Engagement

## UofL service efforts recognized at Community Engagement Awards

The University of Louisville honored faculty, staff, students and a community partner in October for playing significant roles in bringing university resources to the community. About 150 people attended the university's first Community Engagement Awards program. In addition to a crystal award, each category winner received \$2,500 and also designated another \$2,500 to a community partner.

UofL President James Ramsey, Provost Shirley Willihnganz and other university and community officials acknowledged the work of the honorees:

- William J. Crump, M.D., faculty
- Virginia Bradford, Beth Hobson, Connie Sorrell, staff
- School of Public Health and Information Sciences Student Association, students
- J. B. Atkinson Elementary School, community partner

President James Ramsey spoke at the ceremony. "UofL has a tradition of serving its community," Ramsey told them. "Recognizing its employees and its partners who serve the community also is important. Tonight we recognize the faculty, staff members, students and community partners who really are the ones making a difference in the lives of our community," he said. "This is the start of a new tradition. And this will become a more important tradition each year."

### WINNER PROFILES

#### **William J. Crump, M.D.**

Thanks to the leadership of William Crump, underserved residents in Western Kentucky now have access to quality health care, and UofL medical students are receiving world class medical education and clinical training in a rural setting.

Dr. Crump was nominated by Dr. James O'Brien. Crump serves as associate dean of the School of Medicine, Trover Campus, and has played a lead role in establishing a student-directed free clinic for working, uninsured, low-income people in Hopkins County. This past year student volunteers logged more than 628 service hours at the clinic.



Provost Shirley Willihnganz, Vice President Daniel Hall, Dr. William Crump, and President Ramsey pose together after Dr. Crump received award.

Crump also helped re-establish a community-based prenatal clinic in Caldwell County, which no longer had such a clinic. The clinic's success shows. A recent study indicates that Caldwell County residents take advantage of prenatal care at a rate higher

than the rest of Kentucky and above the national average, and the incidence of low birth-weight babies is lower than in the rest of Kentucky and the national average.

Dr. Crump designated the Hopkins County Community Clinic to receive the category and community partner awards totaling \$5,000.

#### **Virginia Bradford, Beth Hobson and Connie Sorrell**

Virginia Bradford, Beth Hobson, and Connie Sorrell have a common passion. Individually and as a team these staff members support the Kentucky Cancer Program which is helping to wage the war against cancer. They were nominated by Diane Whitlock.

Beyond their responsibilities in support of the KCP, they have committed themselves to raising public awareness and support for the Kentucky African Americans against Cancer initiative. They have encouraged dozens of organizations and hundreds of individuals to join in reducing health disparities in the African American community.



Participants served at an informational fair sponsored by the KY Cancer Program

They have directed many services to the community, including cancer resource kits, free mammograms and prostate cancer screening. Last year as a result of their efforts, 353 women were screened for breast cancer and 193 men were screened for prostate cancer.

They coordinate a constant schedule of health fairs, workshops, cooking institutes and support group activities for cancer survivors. Three years ago, they helped launch the annual Red and Black Ball, an event that has raised more than \$190,000 for the Harriet B. Porter Education and Research Endowment.

As the staff winners, they designated \$2,500 to go to the Kentucky African Americans against Cancer program.

#### **Student Association, School of Public Health and Information Sciences**

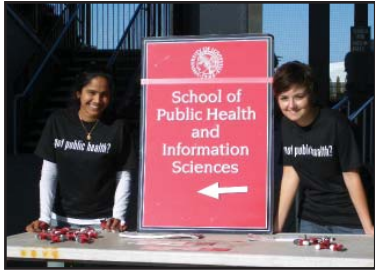
Nominated by Neha Kantamneni, the Student Association of the School of Public Health and Information Sciences (SPHIS) has made community engagement service a top priority.

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# Community Engagement

*SPHIS continued*

For the last two years, SPHIS has won the award for the top school or university team in the annual Louisville AIDS Walk/5K Run, raising almost \$10,000 to provide direct services for people in Louisville who struggle with HIV/AIDS.



SPHIS booth at public event

The student association also sponsored a spring break service-learning project in which seven graduate students traveled to Peterstown, WV to partner with Scottie's

Place, a non-profit organization that provides for children whose lives have been disrupted by homelessness, abandonment and isolation. These SPHIS

students designed a health promotion curriculum, conducted a community assessment study and provided one-on-one mentoring and tutoring for Scottie's Place residents. The student recipients directed their community partner portion to go to Scottie's Place.

## J.B. Atkinson Elementary School

Nominated by Lisa Aarvig, J.B. Atkinson Elementary School, located in the heart of Louisville's Portland neighborhood, has worked closely with UofL students, faculty and staff since 2007 to help boost academic achievement among its student body.

Ninety-six percent of Atkinson students come from economically challenged households, but the school continues to outperform many others that have much greater resources.

Principal Dewey Hensley and his outstanding teachers and staff have worked with UofL to create innovative programs that are helping to enhance academic performance such as, the Louisville Writing Project, ballroom dance classes, development of a Baby College program, and teacher professional development.



UofL Student and Atkinson student in mentoring session

The results are well-documented. For Atkinson, student test scores are rising at a remarkable rate, and student suspensions have declined significantly. Meanwhile, UofL students and faculty are gaining real-world experience in pursuit of their academic, research and professional development.

As the Community Partner recipient, Atkinson Elementary received \$5,000.  
By UofL Communications & Marketing

## Yes You Can Grant Award

A team comprised of administrators, faculty and staff at the University of Louisville, Office of Community Engagement and Kent School of Social Work, as well as key personnel at the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness - Center for Health Equity and the Network Center for Community Change were recently awarded a \$500,000 Compassion Capital Fund (CCF) Demonstration Program Grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services-Administration for Children and Families.

The CCF Demonstration program focuses on building the leadership capacity of faith-based and community organizations working in targeted residential communities/neighborhoods. Specifically the grant will focus on the at risk-youth population residing primarily but not exclusively in west Louisville.

According to Dr. Ralph Fitzpatrick, Grant Co-Principal Investigator, the metro Louisville area has an abundance of youth service programs. Many of these programs have operated for years with limited or undertrained staff, limited fiscal and human resources, and inadequate facilities. The one consistent thread among the many service providers has been a strong desire and commitment to help improve the lives of the community's youth. Fitzpatrick further noted that support afforded metro youth by youth service providers becomes even more significant when one considers that eighty-two percent of African American children in Jefferson County Public Schools comes from single parent households.

The Compassion Capital Funded grant which was recently branded and named the "Yes You Can" initiative will seek to build, increase and sustain community and faith based youth service providers through increased effectiveness, enhanced provision of social services, expanded organizational infrastructure, diversification of funding sources and collaborations to better serve those most in need within the community. The grant will specifically provide one-on-one technical assistance and monetary awards via a competitive grant process up to \$20,000 to approximately 14 promising organizations serving youth in 32 targeted metro Louisville neighborhoods.

Grant officials also plan to conduct a comprehensive assessment of current youth service providers to identify the full range of youth and related family services currently being provided, needs and gaps in current services, successful programs and strategies that have and are being used, partnering and collaborative opportunities to increase effectiveness of services, and how to improve communication between agencies.

The major overarching goal of the Louisville's Yes You Can initiative is to connect, inspire and transform youth service providers to organize and deliver high-impact systems, ideas and programs.

By Dr. Ralph Fitzpatrick, Associate Vice President, Community Engagement

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The University of Louisville is an equal opportunity institution.  
This publication was prepared by the University of Louisville.  
Printed with state funds KRS 57.375.  
182351 - 12/09



Dr. Ralph Fitzpatrick talks to grant participants at **Yes You Can** grant workshop



Small group break out session at **Yes You Can** grant workshop