

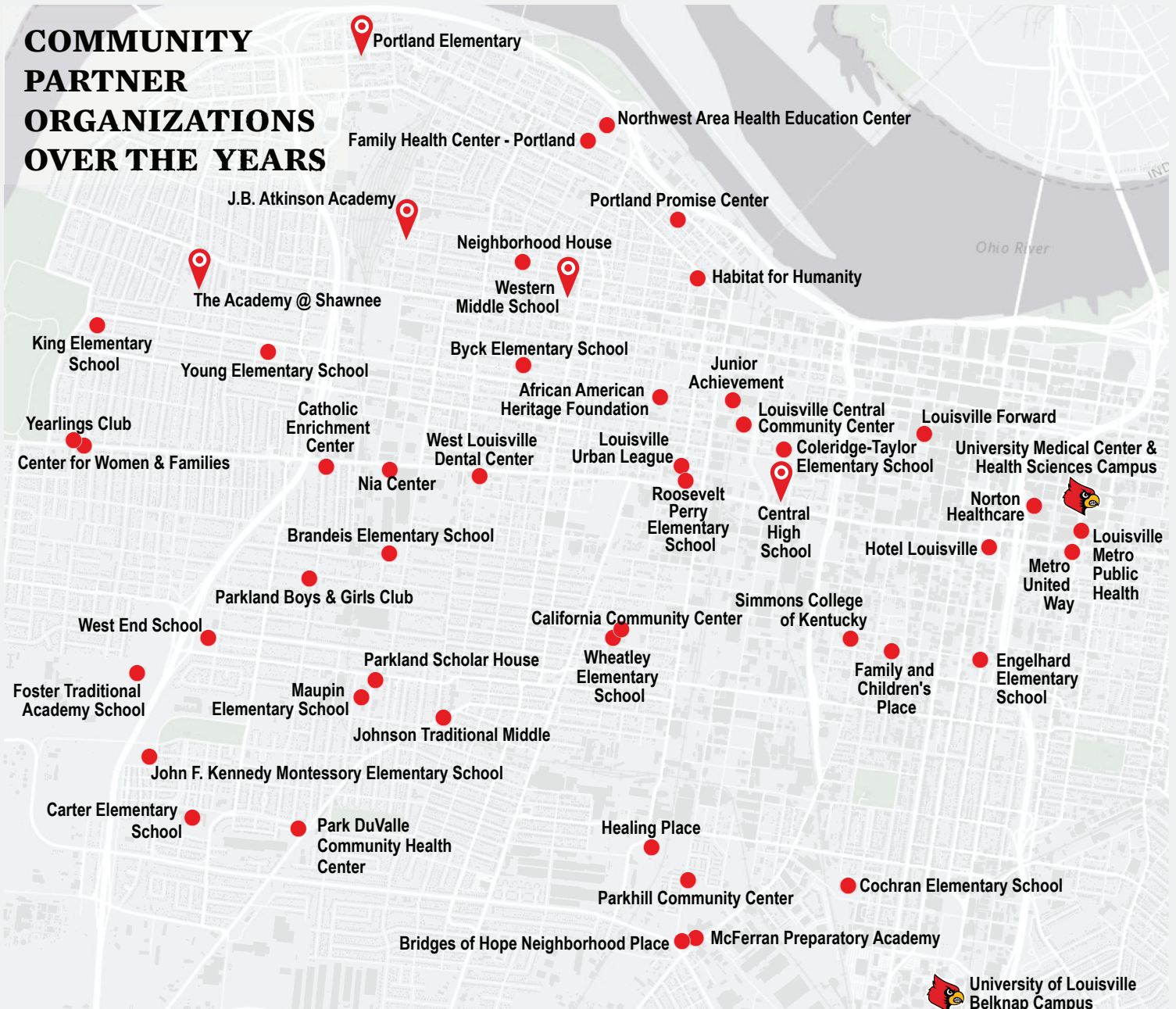
UofL SIGNATURE PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

A collaboration with partners & residents in west Louisville

Like many major metropolitan areas in the United States, the city of Louisville has an urban core that has experienced decades of disinvestment. The heart of Louisville's urban core, west Louisville, is home to more than 60,000 residents, the majority of whom are African Americans. It is a community of nine historic neighborhoods whose residents take pride in their schools, churches, parks and other community assets. In recognition of the challenges facing this vital part of our community, and the intellectual capital present on its campus, the University of Louisville in collaboration with west Louisville community residents and organizations launched the Signature Partnership Initiative in 2007. West Louisville was designated as the geographical focus of the Signature Partnership Initiative after numerous discussions with community leaders and residents about the need for a more strategic effort to reduce or help eliminate educational, health, economic and social disparities.

Although the original impetus behind the creation of the Signature Partnership Initiative was to serve and benefit the community of west Louisville, it quickly became apparent to university administrators and faculty that the initiative provided a rich opportunity to facilitate engaged scholarship across academic disciplines. This initiative also provided a framework for the university to offer meaningful and community-identified experiential learning opportunities to students and significant teaching and research opportunities for faculty. The mutual benefit of the initiative to the community and the university becomes more evident with each passing year. The Signature Partnership Initiative is a model of how institutions of higher learning can engage with their local communities to address pressing issues and consequently play a role in community and urban revitalization.

COMMUNITY PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS OVER THE YEARS



 University of Louisville
Belknap Campus

SIGNATURE PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVES & RECENT ACTIVITIES

EDUCATION*

UofL faculty, staff and students are teaming up with community partners to work with teachers, parents and students in schools in west Louisville. These partnerships have helped launch events and programs covering the gamut from professional development for teachers, support services, science and engineering workshops, mentoring programs, college scholarships, career readiness, and initiatives for access to higher education.



UofL Upward Bound provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. The program provides opportunities for participants to succeed in their precollege performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits. Upward Bound serves: high school students from low-income families; and high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree. UofL's Upward Bound program annually serves around 100 low income and/or first-generation college students with college access programs.

The College of Education & Human Development's (CEHD) Early Learning Campus (ELC) is part of the Louisville Scholar House Campus and is an exemplary early child development center, serving children from west Louisville affiliated with the Louisville Scholar House. The ELC not only utilizes current research in its design, curriculum and approach to educating young children, but it also generates research that is instrumental in "raising the bar" for quality programming for young children.



**see page 4 for K-12 initiatives in UofL's Signature Partnership Initiative*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Both academic and administrative units at the university continue efforts to increase economic opportunities in west Louisville through activities focusing on job creation, business development, entrepreneurship, and financial stability. This work with local businesses, government, and nonprofits has involved business planning and consulting, job training programs, financial literacy classes, and UofL faculty & administrator service on decision-making boards for small business loans and economic development planning for west Louisville.



The Plan Room, a new business accelerator created by OneWest to assist minority-owned construction companies in developing their businesses, is receiving support for its mission from the University of Louisville College of Business. The Plan Room is specifically designed as a resource for racial minority contractors and construction business owners to help them grow their businesses.

HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE

Improving health and quality of life in west Louisville is a key focus of the initiative. In terms of providing health services. A big part of the efforts for improving quality of life have involved working with partners on arts and cultural activities that connect community and celebrate the potential of west Louisville.



Urgent Care Plus is now open in west Louisville's Parkland neighborhood. Area residents can conveniently access affordable preventative and urgent care seven days a week at the new site, located at 2746 Virginia Avenue. The west Louisville facility is staffed with both primary and urgent care providers. Services include treatment of non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries, routine exams, and work-related drug testing. Over the last six years, UofL Health has taken care of more residents in west Louisville than the other two hospital systems combined.

The Portland neighborhood of west Louisville is the home for UofL Hite Art Institute's MFA program and the Department of Anthropology's archaeology program. The facility provides students and faculty with state-of-the-art studio and lab space. Additionally, this growth gives UofL's College of Arts & Sciences a campus presence in a community where revitalization efforts are underway and will further the University's commitment to providing engaged service and outreach to improve the quality of life for local communities.



SOCIAL & HUMAN SERVICES

The Signature Partnership Initiative has worked with over one hundred community partners in activities to build capacity for social and human services and in creating more sustainable neighborhoods in west Louisville. These activities span the spectrum from engaged scholarship involving participatory research, engaged teaching through community-based learning and internships, to partnership projects with major nonprofits, governmental agencies, and philanthropic foundations.

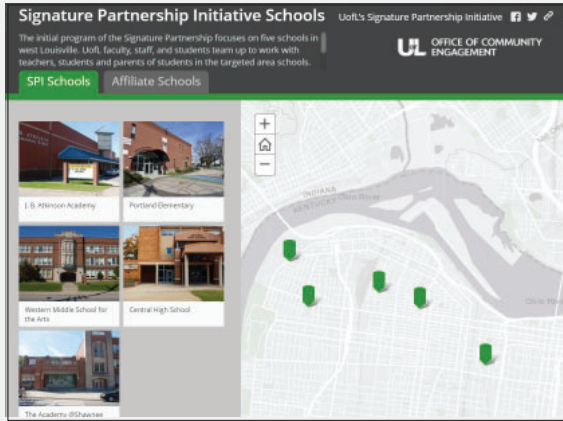


The Cardinal Success Program @ Nia Center is an innovative partnership between the College of Education and Human Development, Department of Counseling and Human Development, and the west Louisville community. By design, it brings access to quality counseling and psychology services to residents from a traditionally underserved area of the community. Services are provided by graduate-level students working under the direct supervision of a licensed mental health professional who also serves as a UofL faculty member.

In the federally funded Youth Violence Prevention Research Center UofL researchers and their community partners developed, implemented, and evaluated various forms of social media to reach youth with messaging from the social norming campaign, and will connect them to resources and services available locally. The strategy draws from a variety of disciplines and links experts with West Louisville youth in the campaign development, testing, and deployment process.



SIGNATURE PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS



UofL faculty, staff, and students team up with other community partners to work with teachers, students and parents of students in the targeted area schools. The goal is to help students perform to the best of their abilities and to reduce or eliminate barriers to learning in an effort to improve educational attainment levels of community residents. The programs vary from school to school and are in accordance with needs identified by each school. The five Signature Partnership schools are Central High, the Academy @ Shawnee, Western Middle, Portland Elementary, Atkinson Elementary and the two affiliate schools – Cochran Elementary and Westport Middle School. The following are a few of the collaborative programs in the schools:

EXAMPLES OF RECENT ACTIVITIES IN SIGNATURE PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS

- **UofL @ Central- Central Goes Red Day** – This day brings together all academic units from the Health Sciences Campus (HSC), Engineering, Law, Education & Human Development, and Business from Belknap Campus as well as Admissions, Financial Aid, and Upward Bound. The purpose of the day is to showcase programs offered by UofL and the admission requirements for these programs. The aim is to inform students in high school about these programs and to create a pipeline to UofL.
- **Health Magnet Program** – The Office of Community Engagement (OCE) is working with HSC to create magnets in dentistry, medicine, nursing, and public health at Central High School. UofL faculty and students will work with Central teachers to embed various activities into the curriculum to enhance the experience of students. The goal is to create a pipeline to UofL and attract more minority to the health care fields.
- **Math Specialist in Elementary Schools** - Through a donation secured by the Office of Community Engagement, math teachers in elementary schools are being provided with a partial scholarship to obtain certification as math specialist from the College of Education and Human Development.
- **The Cardinal Success Program at the Academy @ Shawnee** is an innovative partnership between the University of Louisville's College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), Department of Counseling and Human Development, the Academy @ Shawnee and the west Louisville community. By design, it brings access to quality counseling psychology services to students from a traditionally underserved area of the community. Services are provided by graduate-level students working under the direct supervision of a licensed mental health professional who also serves as UofL faculty. The program is fully integrated into the daily activities of The Academy @ Shawnee and employs a collaborative approach to service delivery by creating a team comprised of teacher, parent, and counselor to support the social-emotional development of each student referred. Services offered include consultation, individual, group, and family counseling, career and college readiness services and psychological assessment. The Cardinal Success Program is an example of true community engagement in the spirit of the UofL Signature Partnership Initiative.
- **Launched in 2015 The Elevate Portland Initiative** has become a popular outreach program for The College of Business. The College of Business faculty, staff, and students have provided tablets, warm clothing, snacks, and most of all encouragement to the students of Portland Elementary. The Elevate Portland Initiative is designed to provide students the basic needs that support a higher quality learning environment and to nurture aspirational goals that will encourage a path to higher education.
- **Funds from the Oxley Foundation** are being utilized to establish our clinical models for teacher preparation at Atkinson Academy, Cochran Elementary School, Portland Elementary School, and Westport Middle School. The CEHD Faculty Liaisons teach content methods and teacher preparation courses on-site in these schools in a designated University of Louisville classroom. Professors-in-Residence assist with professional development activities with the teachers at each school and assists with teacher candidate experiences through participation and observation. The funds are also used to support teachers in these schools who wish to pursue National Board Certification, Clinical Fellows (tuition assistance for new teachers enrolled in U of L Masters degree programs, and a Teacher-in-Residence (TIR). The TIR assists the Faculty Liaisons with establishing classroom observations, professional development for cooperating teachers, and presentations/research. These funds are also used to supplement summer educational programs for the students in each school to address summer regression. Parent orientation sessions are also held at Westport Middle School, as students from Atkinson and Portland are transitioning from elementary to middle school.