Community Engagement  
Office of the Provost

2011 Programs

1. **PROGRAM: Community Engagement Bus Tour**
   In its effort to create authentic partnerships between the community and campus, the Office of Community Engagement was intentional in creating a Community Engagement Bus Tour that showcased true partnership work as a model to its event participants. In meeting with city council members and Commissioners as well as local non-profit leaders to gauge opportunities for partnerships, the OCE focused the tour on health and human needs. The event partners included the Commissioner for Social Services and Lextran. The tour consisted of 4 Community Leaders, 4 Students, 4 Administrators, 8 Faculty and 16 Staff.

**RESULTS:**
- Two University board members now serving on the Blue Grass Community Health Center Board.
- College of Education faculty spoke at the Salvation Army’s early childhood graduation.
- College of Dentistry pursing partnerships with Bluegrass Community Health Center, Community Action Council, Hope Center and The Chrysalis House.
- UK Healthcare and The Chrysalis House formed a relationship that resulted in monetary support for their fundraising efforts.
- College of Ag faculty met staff on the tour who they invited to speak to their HES 100 students on service to our Lexington community.

2. **PROGRAM: Center for Service-Learning**
   The Office of Community Engagement, in partnership with Undergraduate Education, the Center for Enhancement Learning and Teaching and Student Affairs, developed a proposal to create a Center for Service-Learning. This effort resulted in being selected as one of the top 4 QEPs. The work to create this center was initiated by the need of both the University and the community for training, placement and technical support required to work effectively with communities. While the center was not selected as the QEP, work continues toward its establishment.

**RESULTS:**
- Awarded as one of the top 4 QEP proposals.
- On-going

3. **PROGRAM: Cardinal Valley Stream Clean**
   In partnership with Bluegrass PRIDE, Council Member Peggy Henson, Friends of Wolf Run, Keep Lexington Beautiful Commission and the LFUCG Department of Environmental Quality and Public Works, the Cardinal Valley Stream Clean event was established in an effort to both clean the Wolf Run stream and to educate it neighbors about taking care of the environment.
RESULTS:

- 130 volunteers
- 200 pounds of trash collected.
- 7 community programs attended to educate neighbors and volunteers on taking care of the environment.
- The goal is that this will be an annual and enhanced event each year.

4. PROGRAM: Blue Grass Army Depot Site Visit

The Office of Community Engagement brought the Blue Grass Army Depot Commander and his Lieutenants to campus to speak to 21 faculty, staff and administrators from a variety of colleges and departments on opportunities to partner with the depot.

RESULTS:

- Internship and co-op placements for College of Engineering students.
- Advanced faculty research agendas in College of Engineering.
- Site visit to the BGAD for 3 College of Engineering faculty and staff.
- College of Ag conducting strategic plan for BGAD’s equine therapy initiative for wounded soldiers.

5. PROGRAM: William Wells Brown UK Day

In partnership with LFUCG Parks and Rec, this event was created to give children living in the William Wells Brown neighborhood an opportunity to spend a meaningful and educational day on campus.

RESULTS:

- 18 African American students (3rd – 8th grade) and one Hispanic (6th grade) student attended.
- Students said they felt a stronger connection to the University as a result of the event.
- On-going relationship building effort with those students and their families.

6. PROGRAM: Legacy Home

The Legacy Home Ministry is an innovative response to meeting the needs of women as they grow old. While still under development, the Office of Community Engagement brought together UK leadership from the College of Social Work, the Gerontology program and the Landscape Architecture department to meet with the Director of the Legacy Home in order to develop a sustaining and enriching partnership.

RESULTS:

- Their board approved a major research study by a graduate student in the UK Graduate Program in Gerontology pending approval from UK’s Institutional Review Board.
- A UK Landscape Architecture faculty member and graduate student in the Gerontology Program helped to design and build the home’s outside garden.
- A Landscape Architecture class designed an outside ramp for the home.
- The UK Gerontology Program will help with screening and interviewing new residents.
7. **PROGRAM: Community Sweep**
   This effort was created as a way to better understand the community as it relates to establishing mutual beneficial partnerships with the University. A Community Audit was created as a means to track and connect community partners to the University. This up-to-date document showcases opportunities for community/campus partnerships along with contact information.

**RESULTS:**
- Site visits resulted in 54 consultations with non-profits, schools and city agencies.

8. **PROGRAM: William Wells Brown History Project**
   As a result of a community desire to learn more about the community in which they live (the William Wells Brown neighborhood), faculty in the history department consulted with neighbors from the area, a representative from the neighborhood community center and representative from Fayette County Public Schools and Community Engagement staff to determine how best to move forward on research pertaining to William Wells Brown.

**RESULTS**
- UK History Dept. working on a year-long effort to research and create curriculum for the William Wells Brown School.
- On-going

**BOARDS/Community Involvement: Laura Hatfield**
- VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) Advisory Board (2009 – Present)
- CEDIK (Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky) – 2010 - Present
- Blue Grass Community Health Center Community Advisors (2011 – Present)
- Student Code of Conduct Committee (2011 – Present)
- UK Healthcare Community Outreach Advisory Board (2010 – Present)
- CEO Non-profit Round Table (2010 – Present)
- QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) Development Team (2011 – Present)
- Hospice of the Bluegrass (2009 – Present)
- Lexington Getting Connected (2011 – Present)
- Center for Service Learning Leadership Team (2010 – Present)
- Fayette County Public Schools Community Partnerships (2010 – Present)

**BOARDS/Community Involvement: Lisa Higgins-Hord**
- University Neighborhood Advisory Council (UNAC) - Co-chair (2007-Present)
- Town and Gown Commission - Co-chair (2008-Present)
- Lexington Urban League - Second Vice-President (2009-2010)
- Lexington Urban League - Board Chair (2011-Present)
- Fayette County Public School Community Partners Leadership Team member (2009-2010) (2011 incoming chair)
- Lexlinc Board Member (2008-2010)
2011 Partnerships

1. Town and Gown Commission:
   This Commission was created to enhance and strengthen relationships between the University of Kentucky, Transylvania University and their surrounding neighborhoods, the community at-large, and Lexington Fayette Urban County Government. This has given institutions, government and residents of Lexington the opportunity to express concerns and create solutions associated with issues that affect everyone.

   RESULTS:
   • The University and LFUCG are currently founding members of the International Town and Gown Association (ITGA). UK holds a board seat with its representative being, Lisa Higgins-Hord who is also the Co-Chair of our local Town and Gown Association. ITGA is our nation’s common link, bringing together practitioners from varying fields to address common issues and be a network of resources, including print and online publications, information databases, and programs, training materials, and consulting services to help city and university leaders improve the quality of life in their communities. UK was selected as the first university to host a national student webinar. Students Max Stefka and Drake Staples discussed how they spearheaded a campaign to develop the “Cats Cruiser” program at the University of Kentucky.
   • In response to the Vice Mayor’s appointed Student Housing Taskforce recommendations, UK created the position, Director of Off-Campus Student Services, held by Tony Blanton.
   • Work with LFUCG CLEAR Unit Police Division to create educational materials for safety within neighborhoods.

2. Lexington Urban League:
   We collaborated with Preston Osborne, LFUCG, the Lexington Urban League, and the African American Studies Department, and Eastern Kentucky University, investigating the state of blacks in Lexington.

   RESULTS:
   • Created the State of Black Lexington Study which compiled information around six indices: Quality of Life, Equality and Issues of Race, Employment, Housing, Health Care and Education.

3. BMW-GEMS Academy Partnership. This is a local pipeline initiative and partnership with Bracktown Baptist Church and their Academy.

   RESULTS:
   • Community Engagement, the Office of Registrars and Admissions and Office of Institutional Diversity established an on-going academic relationship through coordinated and strategic educational opportunities that in turn support the young men and women of the BMW (101 young men) and GEMS (51 young women) programs to reach and fulfill their educational goals. The students enter the program in middle school and remain with the program until they
graduate from high school. UK offers academic programming, campus tours and regular meetings in addition to the scholarship

4. Jamal Mashburn Scholarship Program was housed in the Office of Community Engagement and worked in collaboration with the UK College of Education, UK Athletics Department, UK Office of Undergraduate Admissions, UK Office of Undergraduate Education, UK Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and Fayette County Public School System. The program is designed to encourage youth from historically underrepresented populations, while in high school, to take courses that will prepare them specifically for coursework at the University of Kentucky.

RESULTS:
• There are additional enhancement activities and mentoring which assist the students preparing the student both socially and academically for college. The program serves as a pipeline initiative for students chosen for scholarships. (Eight students were in the pipeline as seniors and one was added as freshmen. All eight students were accepted and now attend UK in their sophomore year.

5. Community Engagement and the Office of Institutional Diversity coordinated a one week Summer Institute with the Lincoln Foundation’s Whitney M. Young Scholars Summer Program located in Jefferson County.

RESULTS:
• The Summer Institute was designed to acquaint the Scholars with college life and provide them with a holistic experience of college. Scholars engaged in educational enrichment activities, career/personal-development classes, and academic courses. Scholars also learned what takes to be a successful college student.
• The partnership also served as a pipeline initiative in recruiting minority and underrepresented populations in Kentucky.
• Students participating in the program were rising high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors. (twelve of the twenty-six Whitney Young Scholars attendees of the 2009 summer program are attending UK)

6. University Neighborhood Advisory Council (UNAC) was created as a partnership and relationship between UK and its near neighborhoods. Discussions are held once a month to have both administrators and neighborhood representatives work on issues prioritized by level of importance.

RESULTS:
• Created partnership between Gaines Center and UNAC to host the Gaines Center Lafayette Series, Town and Gown III, Connecting our Neighbors. Seminar I yielded 175 participants. Discussion has led to a proposal created by speaker and president of U3 Ventures President, Omar Blaik which UK, BCTCS, Transylvania LFUCG, Blue Grass Community Foundation and residents of Lexington have agreed to fund Phase I of a study (beginning in August 2011) to investigate community and economic development as a collaborative effort in advancing the city of Lexington.