ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS AT
URBAN SERVING UNIVERSITIES

PREPARED BY:

CENTER FOR THE CITY

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

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UNIVERSITY PROFILES

OVERVIEW OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF URBAN SERVING UNIVERSITIES

Large urban Universities greatly impact cities' communities and have a responsibility to actively engaged and improve their urban environments. Urban Serving Universities embrace this responsibility. In 2006, the seventeen designated USUs had a combined economic impact of over $50 billion in their communities.[1] The motto of one USU, Portland State University, exemplifies the agenda of this coalition of urban research universities: "Let knowledge serve the city."

Urban Serving Universities are leveraging their knowledge and resources to improve urban neighborhoods. The University of Akron has invested over $300 million to revitalize 40 blocks surrounding campus. In twenty years, Temple University has committed $500 million to local community projects. When the University of Minnesota builds its new football stadium, it will invest $1.5 million in adjacent neighborhoods to offset any localized externalities. Indiana-Purdue University in Indianapolis has engaged WESCO-the coalition of Westside Indianapolis neighborhoods—in a rich, cooperative dialogue that has engaged communities, empowered neighboring communities to reach their highest point in decades, and fostered the formation of several new community development groups.

The spirit of volunteerism and community service among Urban Serving Universities is astounding. For example, over 8,000 students at The University of Texas at Austin provided three million hours of volunteer service to the Austin community. This translates to $56 million of in-kind services that directly improve the University's

community.[2] If each of the over 70 urban universities in the U.S. contributed this level of service, nearly $4 billion in local, grassroots, community service would be generated.

Engaging our cities means preparing for the future. As hubs of science and technology, cities must be the centers of a nationwide effort to improve science and technology education. At the University of Missouri in St. Louis, an innovative program connects inner-city youth connect with students in four African countries to interactively study the sciences, embrace technology, and forge multiculturalism. At North Carolina State, a $21.3 million program offers the best in science education to over 20,000 K-12 students and their teachers.

Effective urban progress means overcoming health disparities. Urban Serving Universities are committed to improving the health of our cities. The University of Colorado at Denver and Health Services Center provides $60 million annually in care to citizens who would otherwise fall through the cracks of the health care system. The University of Cincinnati has opened the only diabetes center in the region and has received over $10 million in funding to study diabetes and its relationship to genetics. In Portland, grassroots initiatives are empowering poor neighborhoods to take ownership of and find solutions to improve their community's heal

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[1] Combined economic impact represents the sum of each University's self-reported economic impact. Information availability and methodology varied. For sources and more information, see section !!!
[2] One volunteer hour in 2006 valued at $18.77 (source: http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html)

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

The **University of Minnesota** has been a good neighbor to adjacent communities. It is working on a state-level bill that would appropriate $750,000 for a pilot study of the University's impact, both positive and negative, on its neighbors. Concerned about unforeseen effects from a new football stadium, the University has invested $1.5 million in adjacent neighborhoods. The University is also engaged with local governments to develop an early childhood development research center in the troubled North Side neighborhood of Minneapolis.

The **University of Akron**, through its University Park Alliance has invested $334.1 million into revitalizing 40-blocks of diverse neighborhoods surrounding the University in central Akron. Beyond real estate and business investments, UPA's community outreach arm serves the community with free health screenings, classes, tutoring, and more.

The **University of Cincinnati** is an active partner in over $325 million in neighborhood revitalization in the six neighborhoods surrounding its campus. Based on a nationally acclaimed Master Plan, the projects will rejuvenate and reinvent not only the University, but a significant portion of Cincinnati's urban core. By partnering with the four largest employers in the Uptown region, the University helped to create an Uptown Consortium, a group dedicated to implementing and overseeing improvements and the rebirth of the Uptown neighborhoods.

Since 1984, and with the cooperation of over 850 community investors, **Temple University**'s reinvestment fund has committed more than $500 million toward community investments. Today, the University is working with local stakeholders and investing nearly $40 million in the revitalization of adjacent neighborhoods, bringing jobs and an improved quality-of-life to residents of impoverished Philadelphia communities.

After years of little interaction with surrounding communities, **Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis** committed its resources to helping improve these neighborhoods from the inside-out. In 1998, a long-term relationship was officially established between the Westside Cooperative Organization (WESCO) and IUPUI.   Since then, a rich, cooperative dialogue has engaged communities and empowered neighboring communities to reach their highest point in decades. This partnership has also fostered the formation of several new community development groups.

COMMUNITY AND URBAN HEALTH

The **University of Texas at Austin** was recently awarded $50 million for the establishment of a Center for the Advancement of Healthy Living. Through research and community outreach, the Center is dedicated to reducing childhood obesity, an epidemic facing communities in Austin and around the country.

The **University of Colorado at Denver and Health Services Center** provides over $60 million in annual care to people in the Denver area who cannot afford medical insurance. Over twenty programs offer medical services and partner with organizations throughout the community. Medical students, faculty, and volunteers have shown their commitment to promoting public health by volunteering over 22,000 hours annually to the community.

At **Portland State University,** the "Power for Health" partnership is engaging and empowering African-American and Hispanic communities to identify and address health issues within their own communities. Using popular education methodology, communities take ownership of and develop sustainable solutions to improve urban health.

The City University of New York recognizes the urban diabetes epidemic and sees firsthand its effect in New York City. With Federal, State, and University funding, the CUNY began a comprehensive and ambitious program to mobilize research, teaching, and service resources to improve the management and prevention of diabetes.

The University of Missouri at Kansas City provides $5.5 million annually in free and reduced cost health care services to more than 60,000 patients who otherwise may never receive treatment.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

At the **University of St. Louis-Missouri,** an innovative program links the study of technology, science, and culture by virtually connecting youth from high-poverty neighborhoods in St. Louis with youth in four African countries. **UMSL** accomplishes this through partnerships with four local and four African schools, six local community groups, and members of the community, faculty, and staff.

The "Science House" at **North Carolina State University** improves knowledge of and interest in the sciences through innovative programs targeting K-12 students and teachers. As part of a $21.3 million initiative, the Science House reaches helps prepares over 20,000 students each year to become the future leaders of technology.

Florida International University's Center for Diversity in Engineering and Computing prepares Miami youth to begin careers in science and engineering. The center prepares minorities and underprivileged youth to become scientists that will guide South Florida for years to come.

Recognized by the National Science Foundation as a model program, the $1 million STEP (Science and Technology Enhancement Program) program at the **University of Cincinnati** addresses the increased need for educators in science and math. STEP provides valuable science education to K-12 students and encourages urban youth to pursue careers in the sciences. Faculty, graduate fellows, and existing teachers work together to develop inquiry-based science curriculum to be used by over 1000 local students.

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

Context

University of Akron's 218-acre urban campus is located in south downtown and is the academic home of over 23,000 students. The Akron metro region is relatively small, with fewer than 700,000 residents, while the city itself is home to just over 200,000 people. The University is situated in University Park, a working-class neighborhood with a significant population of students and young professionals.

University Park Alliance

http://www.upakron.com/
Contact: Ken Stapleton
　　　　(330) 972-8859

The University Park Alliance (UPA) has invested $334.1 million into revitalizing 40-blocks of diverse neighborhoods surrounding the University. Beyond real estate and business investments, UPA's community outreach arm serves the community with free health screenings, classes, tutoring, and more.

Beginning in 2006, lasting three years, and based on a $400,000 COPC federal grant, UPA will work with 36 faculty members and engage students to work with 13 neighborhood groups in the spheres of economic development, neighborhood redevelopment, and education. UPA seeks to revitalize the University Park area as a "great place to live, study, work, shop and play through engaging the community and real estate investment." Tens of millions of dollars are being invested into the area through private firms and from the City of Akron. UPA and COPC efforts have been recognized in the media, national foundations, and by Ohio's Governor.

The Center for Literacy

http://www.uakron.edu/colleges/educ/Lit/index.php
Contact: (330) 972-7680

Through the College of Education, the Center connects faculty and students with local populations for the purpose of learning language. Through five programs which interface either directly with local populations or engage in institutional capacity building, students combine service learning with progress in their degree programs.

Recent Outreach Activities

UA Students Survey Habitat Site – In the 9th Habitat for Humanity project since 2003, students of surveying and mapping researched two parcels of land. They discovered existing property boundaries and prepared the sites for inspection by the City before Habitat begins construction on new homes.

This City Reads! – In a fourth annual event, the University invited community leaders to read to more than 300 students from a local elementary school. Readers included the mayor and assistant mayor, school superintendents, college deans, hospital executives, and religious leaders. University staff and students also read to children throughout the day.

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA – BIRMINGHAM

Context

UAB's 83-city-block downtown-Birmingham campus is the academic home to more than 15,000 students. The City is home to about 250,000 people while the metropolitan area has a population of 1.2 million. Social problems associated with urban areas exist in Birmingham, but mostly in outlying areas—the downtown area is relatively prosperous.

CORD – Center for Outreach and Community Development

http://main.uab.edu/cord
Contact: (205) 934-5171

CORD develops partnerships between the University and the Birmingham community, the City government, and the City School District. The Center provides finances on a competitive basis and through Center-directed initiatives. The Center has 19 active programs in the school system, ranging from an air quality study with middle school students to "BioTeach" graduate-level courses for local high school teachers.

Minority Health and Research Center, Community Outreach Program

http://mhrc.dopm.uab.edu/outreach.html
Contact: (205) 996.2880

The MHRC outreach programs works with various institutions and organizations to establish partnerships for research and actions that serve minority and underserved populations. Current programs include, among others: Building Healthy Communities, Community Health Advisors Fighting Obesity, and Deep South Network for Cancer Control.

Recent Outreach Activities

Free Health Screenings – The UAB hospital routinely offers free health screenings to the Birmingham community. For example, in the 2006-2007 school year, UAB offered free screenings for depression and other mental health conditions as part of National Depression Screening Day. The UAB Otolaryngology Division offered free screenings for oral cancer and head and neck cancer as part of an international awareness week.

Tornado Relief – After a recent high school was devastated by a tornado, the department of education at UAB held a donation drive for school supplies requested by the high school, which was holding classes at a local junior college.

Context

The University of Cincinnati's main non-medical campus is a 137-acres "superblock" surrounded by some of Cincinnati's most diverse and dynamic urban neighborhoods. The adjacent 57-acre medical campus is consistently rated as one of the top medical schools in the state. The City of Cincinnati is home to 331,000 people and more than 2 million live in the Cincinnati region.

Neighborhood Revitalization

The University of Cincinnati is an active partner in over $325 million in neighborhood revitalization in the six neighborhoods surrounding its campus. Based on a nationally acclaimed Master Plan, the projects will rejuvenate and reinvent not only the University, but a significant portion of Cincinnati's urban core. By partnering with the four largest employers in the Uptown region, the University helped to create an Uptown Consortium, a group dedicated to implementing and overseeing improvements and the rebirth of the Uptown neighborhoods.

Education Initiatives

In 2006, the University of Cincinnati launched a first-of-its kind educational partnership. Called "Strive," the partnership brings fluidity to Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky's entire educational system by connecting institutions from pre-school through college. The program brings together non-profit, business, and governmental education and provides a roadmap that seeks to lead every student in the region on a path towards a college degree.

Initiatives for Urban Health

The University of Cincinnati is at the forefront of confronting diabetes—a health care crisis that could, in the near future, affect 1 in 2 Cincinnatians who are African-American. The National Institute of Health awarded UC researchers $10 million in grants for policy development relating to Diabetes and Digestive Kidney Diseases.[1] Through the human genome project, UC's Genomics Center was one of just eight institutions nationally to receive funding to study relationships between diabetes and genetics.[2]

The University's commitment to research and improving urban health problems serves the Cincinnati community as well. In 2004, the University opened a Diabetes Center, the only regional comprehensive center for adults with diabetes. Established in 1987, UC's Urban Health Project is a summer-long program that helps medical students understand the importance of providing better care to all segments of society. Through this and other programs, the University provides $137 million in free health care to underserved populations.

[1] http://healthnews.uc.edu/publications/deanslist/?/3442/
[2] http://healthnews.uc.edu/news/?/339/

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT DENVER AND HEALTH SERVICES CENTER

http://www.ucdhsc.edu/

Context

In 2004, The University of Colorado at Denver and the University of Colorado Health Services Center merged into a single institution. The campus is comprised of three campuses and has a student body of around 27,000 students. Most undergraduates attend the downtown campus. UCDHSC is the top graduate-degree granting school in Colorado. Denver's population is just over ½ million people and the metro area is home 2.4 million people.

Community Outreach at the Health Services Center

http://www.uchsc.edu/community/
Contact: (303) 372-0000

The outreach center provides health services and education programs at little or no cost to the community. The medical school, for example, has more than 20 health outreach programs ranging from clinics to a "mini-med school" lecture series. Participation is high, with an approximate 22,000 volunteer hours each year. The school provides over $60 million in care for the medically indignant each year.

University Community Initiatives

"Urban Citizen" Service Course – A course that has been offered in the political science department for over a decade, it combines academic work and lectures about the social issues surrounding poor and underserved portions of society with experience developing projects and working in impoverished communities. "Urban Citizen" students work with immigrant workers, American Indians, community groups, and others, with the goal of improving life for all segments of society. Many students continue volunteering at organizations such as these long after the course has ended.

Salvation Army Eastside Clinic – The program, active for about a decade, provides preventative medical care to former substance abusers in conjunction with a six-month residential rehabilitation program. The goal of the program is to provide needed health services to an underserved population while instilling a sense of community service and dedication to improving all segments of society.

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Context

FIU's one-square mile campus is located about 14 miles west of downtown Miami, a city with a population of 400,000 in a metro region with 5.5 million residents. Enrollment at FIU is nearly 40,000 students and has increased significantly in recent years.

Center for Transnational and Comparative Study

http://tcs.fiu.edu/
Contact: Sarah J. Mahler, Director
(305) 348-6561

Through its business, media, and community outreach, the center provides academic support and research in response to local needs and national/international issues. This is accomplished through strategic partnerships with community organizations and with the multitude of state and federal agencies in Miami.

Volunteer Action Center

http://www.fiu.edu/~vac/
Contact: Patty Temino, Assistant Director
(305) 348-2149

VAC's mission is to help students and faculty realize their potential impact in the community, to provide opportunities for students to combine practice and theory through service learning, to use the FIU community as agents of change in South Florida, and to function as a liaison between the community and university. In 2006, for example, VAC sponsored and organized a "Dance Marathon" that rose over $75,000 for Miami Children's Hospital.

College of Business Administration's Civic Engagement Initiative

http://business.fiu.edu/service/
Contact: Dr. Bob Hogner
(305) 348-2751

Civic engagement opportunities are integrated with the college's curriculum in management, accounting, and real estate, through a weekend BBA program, and through a dedicated service learning course.

Selection of Projects

Dress a Child for the Holidays – an annual event where students work to provide homeless children with clothes.
Partnership with the Miami Benefit Club – students have volunteered over 1000 hours on various projects with a local food bank, habitat for humanity, the Miami Homeless Assistance Center, and others.
Mentoring High School Seniors – students establish one-on-one mentoring partnerships with high school seniors from a low-income neighborhood and help them study for the SAT, prepare for college, and prepare a strategic plan for college admission.
Tax Help – CBA students coordinated a program in conjunction with the IRS to provide tax-assistance to low-income tax-filers.

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Context

GSU's campus is located in downtown Atlanta, a city of nearly 500,000 people in a metropolitan area of 5.1 million. GSU, an Urban Research University, enrolls 26,000 students.

The Neighborhood Collaborative

http://www.gsu.edu/~wwwtnc/

In 1992, Former President Carter established an initiative known as The Atlanta Project, which was transferred to GSU in 1999 and is currently housed within TNC. TNC seeks to build community capacity by partnering with neighborhoods and organizations, which it accomplishes largely through three neighborhood offices in the Atlanta area, which provide resources to neighborhood residents. Secondly, TNC seeks to focus on research and teaching opportunities afforded through community outreach and has an aggressive master plan to revitalize George State's neighborhood. Finally, TNC seeks to improve the low income residents' access to needed human services through collaboration and partnerships between service providers and communities.

TNC Programs

A significant portion of GSU's outreach is achieved through programs at TNC. Eight separate programs focus on different demographics within the community. The **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** matches people 55 an older with service and volunteer opportunities within their communities. Through the **Foster Grandparent Program**, people over 60 provide assistance to children with special needs, therefore providing what would be a costly service to children from low-income families. TNC's **Weed and Seed Program** brings together law enforcement, parents, and Atlanta schools to reduce truancy in target communities. **Fatherhood Services** are available to parents without legal custody to their children and provides courses and support to non-custodial parents. The program also researches client needs and maintains a tracking system to link clients with external services.

Other projects of TNC projects work with residents in extremely poor neighborhoods facing gentrification; one program helps provide access to health services to poor and uninsured Atlanta residents, and another offers a variety of services to senior citizens.

Office of Community Services

http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwcsl/
Contact: (404) 463-9043

The office promotes volunteerism among students, faculty, and staff by connecting them with opportunities to serve. The office maintains a database of volunteer opportunities and community service internships for most academic majors. Students can work with Hands-On-Atlanta, a local non-profit, for major projects around Atlanta or volunteer for events such as food service outreach or tutoring low-income children.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Context

The University of Houston's dense one-square mile campus is situated about three miles southeast of downtown and has enrollment of 35,000 students. With over 2 million people, Houston is the nation's fourth-largest city.

Metropolitan Volunteer Program

http://www.uh.edu/mvp/
Contact: Dona Suttajit, Director
(713) 743-5200

The primary vehicle through which the University is engaged with the community, the MVP program links students, faculty, and staff with the Houston community by providing volunteer opportunities through specific programs or linking individuals with community opportunities. Among the currently active MVP programs are:

Adopt-a-Block: a program in which volunteers to regularly help clean the city block that has been "adopted" by MVP.
Spring Break Urban Experience: an intensive week of urban service activities in the Houston area. Participants volunteered in a different social-concern area each day.

Center for Public Policy

http://www.uh.edu/cpp/
Contact: LaDonna Hogan
(713) 743-3976

The center serves as an impartial research institution for areas of concern to Houston communities. The center gathers public opinion information on issues of urban revitalization, health care, and other policy issues. It has also been contracted by the state to evaluate education programs within Houston, and performs economic and housing data analyses for the region. A current research initiative of the CPP is to study police taser usage by, e.g., cross-referencing spatial taser discharge data with community and neighborhood profiles and demographics.

Recent University Initiatives

Reach Out to Dropouts - The University worked with the Houston School District to encourage dropouts to return to school in the third annual "Reach Out to Dropouts Day." In 2005, more than 1,500 volunteers helped immediately bring back 49 students; overall, 1,300 students returned to school and 207 graduated.

Operation School Supplies – The 15th annual 2006 school supply drive, led by the Alumni Organization partnered with Coca-Cola, sought to raise more than $150,000 in cash and school supplies through an on-campus and community drive, supported by local TV and Radio Affiliates, the Houston Astros, and local newspapers.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY – PURDUE UNIVERSITY INDIANAPOLIS

Context

Located in Indianapolis, the Purdue / Indiana University merger institutions has undergraduate and postgraduate enrollment of nearly 30,000. The 510-acre campus is located just West of downtown.

Center for Service and Learning

http://csl.iupui.edu/
Contact: (317) 278-2662

All of IUPUI's community involvement activities occur under the umbrella of the Center for Service and Learning. CSL is comprised of four offices: The Office of Service Learning, The Office of Community Service, The Office of Neighborhood Partnerships, and The Office of Community Work Study.

IUPUI-WESCO Partnership

Though IUPUI does not directly contribute money to the city or its development, it partners with organizations, community groups, and the city for various projects. Perhaps its most influential partnership is with the Westside neighborhoods in urban Indianapolis. In 1998, a long-term relationship was officially established between the Westside Cooperative Organization (WESCO) and IUPUI. Since then, a rich, cooperative dialogue has engaged communities, empowered neighboring communities to reach their highest point in decades, and fostered the formation of several new community development groups.

Recent Initiatives

$2.5 Million Mental Health Study - IUPUI is beginning a $2.5 study to evaluate the effectiveness of Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) for individuals with severe mental illnesses. IUPUI will evaluate ACT's success in helping mentally ill individuals find meaningful lives that contribute to society rather than only needing its services.

Participation in the STEM Initiative – Focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, IUPUI will work with other institutions nationwide in a long-term effort to increase the enrollment of minority and disadvantaged populations in scientific programs.

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

Context

University of Memphis's approximately two-square mile campus is situated just over seven miles east of downtown Memphis. Metropolitan Memphis has a population of 1.25 million, about half of whom live in Memphis proper. Enrollment at UM, located in Memphis' Hickory Hill neighborhood, is around 20,000.

Regional Economic Development Center

http://cas.memphis.edu/planning/redc.htm
Contact: Steve Redding, Director
        (901) 678-2056

The center provides outreach through professional support and technical assistance in the field of economic development planning in central and western Tennessee. In addition, REDC has dozens of publications available and is a central source for connections to regional planning resources available throughout the University.

Community Service Division

http://saweb.memphis.edu/Leadership/CommunityServ.html
Contact: (901) 678-8679

Partnering with http://volunteermemphis.org , the community service division organizes and encourages student community service. Student Advocating Services (SAS) provides community service opportunities to students, staff, and faculty. Program example include "Service on Saturday" and an "Alternative Spring Break," in which dozens of student volunteers spent spring break building a house for a family in need.

Center for Community Health

http://cch.memphis.edu/communityoutreach.html
Contact: Billy Mac Jones
        (901) 678-1714

The center's mission is to improve health and quality of life for citizens of Memphis' Shelby County. It is a collaborative effort between five University Colleges and fosters cooperation between researchers and community health groups, advocate for local policy development regarding community health needs, and increase research capacity. Recent community outreach programs include a "stop-smoking" clinic and a partnership with "Tennessee on the Move," a group which encourages increased physical activity in Memphis communities.

Recent University Initiatives

TRIO programs – Through a federal grant, UM's Student Support Services (SSS) serves 160 at-risk youth by providing services such as tutoring, personal finance counseling, career counseling, assistance in applying to and visiting colleges, and assistance in applying for financial aid. Of the 160 youth who enrolled in the program in 2005, 85 percent remain enrolled and have indicated their intention to complete a bachelor's degree.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Context

The University of Minnesota has 50,000 students at its St. Paul and Minneapolis Campuses, which are linked by a dedicated bus route. The more urban campus is located downtown in Minneapolis, a city of 350,000 in a metropolitan area of nearly three million people.

Community Connections

http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/05_community.php

The University of Minnesota has a wide array of community linkages and programs. Logically, community programs are separated into agriculture and environment, business partnerships, youth and education, and economic and community development. Within each area, the University provides academic, community, and program resource information, so that area groups or individuals can quickly find the programs or linkages which they seek.

COPE – Council on Public Engagement

http://www.engagement.umn.edu/cope/

COPE seeks to institutionalize public engagement among faculty, staff, and students. COPE brings together researchers and community members, politicians and administrators, to encourage and development public engagement at all University levels.

Office for Business and Community Economic Development

http://www.ced.umn.edu/

The office's mission is to contribute to the economic growth and development of the region by partnering and collaborating with government, business, and community organizations. The office promotes business opportunities, provides technical support, and implements strategic programs, such as small business development, executive leadership, and management assistant for small business, to improve area communities and quality of life among residents.

Children, Youth, and Family Consortium

http://www.cyfc.umn.edu/

The consortium functions to build networks within the University and community, bridge the gap between theory, practice, and disciplines, and foster communication and act as an information source. The consortium is well-connected with a variety of government organizations and non-profits that address issues of early childhood development, continued student development, family relationships, and intergenerational and senior issues.

Recent Initiatives of the University

Volunteer for Tickets – the Minnesota Student Association gave two "Guster" concert tickets to each student who volunteered more than 20 hours of community service in the Twin Cities.

First Annual Public Engagement Day was a daylong session to provide a deeper understanding of the meaning of public engagement, community and university initiatives, and to cultivate new relationships among businesses, the university, and the community.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI – KANSAS CITY

Context

UMKC's campus in the Rockhill neighborhood of Kansas City is attended by nearly 15,000 students. The campus is about seven miles south of central downtown. Kansas City has a population of 450,000; the metropolitan area is home to nearly 2 million residents. Like many American Cities, Kansas City's urban areas suffered years of neglect and only recently have been experiencing significant redevelopment.

Department of Community and Public Affairs

http://www.umkc.edu/community/
Contact: Mary Larson Diaz, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Community and Public Affairs
        (816) 235-1046

The department projects the goal of UMKC to create a "University without borders" that is a functional and integral part of the city. The department communicates with public officials and builds relationships between the University and a variety of community sectors. The department overseas a variety of community-relations offices, community services (including *Center for the City,* the school's service learning department, and the campus master planning initiative.

Institute for Urban Education (IUE)

http://iue.umkc.edu/
Contact: Tonya Bobbitt
        (816) 235-2472

IUE is an undergraduate program at UMKC that leads to an elementary or middle school education degree focusing on literacy, math, and science. The program focuses on training students to teach in an urban setting, and scholarships are available to students who make a commitment to teach in an urban school after graduation. IUE regularly works with the community and is dedicated to promoting social justice and multicultural education.

Recent Initiatives of the University

Sally Ride Festival – The festival, hosted on the UMKC campus, brought together hundreds of girls to see example of women in technology and sciences, in order to promote the field among today's students. Sally Ride, the first woman in space, was the event's keynote speaker.

Black Family Technology Awareness Week 2007 – Led by the Black Family Technology Awareness Association of Kansas City, UMKC is sponsoring a weeklong effort that focuses on raising awareness about the digital divide facing many black families and leveraging resources to promote the advancements associated with technological literacy, such as employment, health care, education, and home-ownership.

Pre-Preliminary Mayoral Forum – UMKC, in cooperation with local neighborhood associations, invited mayoral primary candidates to a forum to discuss issues of quality of life and the racial divide in many Kansas City communities.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST LOUIS

Context

About 15,000 students attend UMSL's Urban, 300+ acre campus located in St Louis' North County, approximately 10 miles northwest of downtown. The city has a population of 350,000 within the metropolitan area of nearly 3 million people.

Community Partnership Project

http://www.umsl.edu/~conted/cpp/
Contact: Kay Gasen, Director
(314) 516-5269

The community partnership project links resources of the University and its extensions to develop community partnerships based on the needs and priorities of residents and communities in St. Louis. The project's primary objectives include convening research teams, hosting workshops and conferences, offering education and technical assistance, provide support to faculty and students for community service, and building connections between the university and external initiatives.

Public Policy Research Center

http://pprc.umsl.edu/
Contact: (314) 516-5273

The Public Policy and Research Center analyzes and evaluates public policies and researches policy issues. It has three key areas of focus: Applied Research, Metropolitan Information and Data Analysis Services, and Public Finance. The research center publishes policy briefs, occasional papers, books, research papers, and more on a gamut of topics from environment to child care to faith-based initiatives.

Recent Initiatives of the University

Community Building Conversation – Each month, the community partnership program holds a community conversation about developing alternative approaches to solving social problems and community development issues. In April, for example, the director of local program, "Beyond Housing," discussed the asset-building work of his organization.

Free Tax Prep – Students from the college of business annually offer free tax preparation assistance to low-income taxpayers and senior citizens. The service is offered at multiple times and locations throughout the tax season, ending April 15. It is part of the school's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which the school has participated in for 33 years.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Context

UNO, with approximately 16,000 students, was built initially as a commuting school and has since expanded to be the second largest University in Louisiana and has six campuses. The main campus is located on the southern shore of Lake Pontchartrain in a relatively wealthy area of the city. Situated on high ground, it was not significantly damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

University of New Orleans' Strategic Plan

http://www.upcom.uno.edu/docs/UNOStrategicPlan2005_2010.pdf

Goal 5 of UNO's strategic plan, created in 2005, is to, *"Expand community engagement to support the economic, social, and cultural development of the city and region."* Community outreach will focus on four initiatives, which focus on technology and research, educational reform, and nonprofit partnerships.

Recent Initiatives

Public Lecture Series -Beginning in January and continuing through the spring of 2007, the University is offering a lecture series on the history of New Orleans that is free and open to the public. This is the third such public lecture series offered since 2002, and the programs have been well attended, according to University Administrators.

Planning for a Carless Evacuation – Twenty-six percent of New Orleans residents do not have cars and thousands of these residents spent days awaiting rescue after Katrina. To address the need to plan for carless urban citizens during disasters, University researchers are evaluating plans and developing tools and policies to better prepare New Orleans and national cities to address this issue. The team established to research this problem is led by UNO faculty and supported by researchers and academics throughout the country. The program has set up a web site, available at http://www.carlessevacuation.org/.

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Context

The City University of New York is the largest urban university system in the United States. It is made up of 11 colleges, 6 junior colleges, graduate and journalism schools, a law school, and a school of biomedical education. Enrollment in all of its programs combined exceeds 400,000 students.

The Colin Powell Center for Policy Studies

http://www1.ccny.cuny.edu/ci/cpowellcenter/

The Colin Powell Center is involved in community engagement through its service learning programs, for which it partners with dozens of community organizations, policy research that seeks to address issues in Harlem, and by providing financial support to students through service-learning fellowships, and to faculty through project grants.

The Urban Health Collaborative

http://www1.cuny.edu/academics/centers-and-institutes/urban-health.html

"The CUNY Urban Health Collaborative (UHC) was created in Spring 2000 in order to strengthen teaching, research and practice in urban health within the City University of New York. With more than 200,000 students who reflect the diversity of the city and more than 100 health-related academic programs, CUNY brings a wealth of resources to the study of urban health." (cuny.edu)

Recent Initiatives

CUNY Campaign Against Diabetes – Recognizing the urban diabetes epidemic and its effects in New York City, CUNY began a comprehensive and significant program to mobilize research, teaching, and service resources to improve the management and prevention of diabetes.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

Context

NCSU's 3.3 square-mile campus is located approximately 2.5 miles west of downtown Raleigh, a city with a population of 360,000 (the Raleigh metropolitan area has a population of nearly 1 million). NCSU is the largest university in North Carolina with enrollment of over 30,000 students.

Office of Extension, Engagement and Economic Development (EEED)

http://www.ncsu.edu/extension/
Contact: James J. Zuiches, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor
      (919) 513-0388

The office provides support and visioning to the plethora of community partnerships at North Carolina State by involving and engaging University departments and external partners to leverage University resources to improve North Carolina's economy and quality of life. EEED oversees community engagement in ten categories, including business and industry, youth and health, agriculture and environment, and other related categories. Within each category, the University maintains several partnerships between academic departments and the community.

Selection of Outreach Programs within EEED

The Center for Urban Affairs and Community Services (CUACS) – This department serves the Raleigh area and North Carolina citizens through research and partnerships in six focus areas: education, environment, community development, criminal justice, workforce development, and health and human services. For example, CUACS had administered a survey among public housing residents in regards to public services, another to better understand crime perceptions, and a third to understand the state of citizens' air quality awareness. The center also acted as an advisor for Raleigh's brownfield redevelopment program and evaluated North Carolina's substance abuse services. More information can be found at the Center's web page, http://www.cuacs.ncsu.edu/.

Urban Forestry Outreach – Under increasing development pressures on North Carolina forests, the program advises landowners, professionals, and civic leaders of mutually-beneficial alternatives to further deforestation. Specifically, the initiative focuses on methods of land protection, competitive economic uses of existing forest areas, and creating synergy between urban growth and forest conservation. The outreach project's website is available online at http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/forest/sp.htm.

Selection of Engagement Initiatives

Computer Science Majors Renovate Middle School Labs – Students combined with North Carolina Goodwill and Microsoft to prepare 25 donated computers with appropriate software updates and needed refurbishments and established two new computer labs in a local middle school. The project led to the local Association of Computing Machinery chapter winning the organization's national 2003-2004 Outstanding Community Service Award.

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Context

The metropolitan Portland area is home to about 2 million residents, 500,000 of whom live in Portland proper. PSU's downtown campus has enrollment of nearly 25,000 students and is Oregon's largest public university. The University is involved with many community and regional projects, emphasizing the arts, environmental sustainability, and social justice in most of their outreach efforts.

Center for Academic Excellence

http://www.pdx.edu/cae/
Contact: Kevin Kecskes, Director of Community-University Partnerships
     (503) 725-5642

CAE is a centralized location with information about all of the partnerships with which the University is engaged, including an innovative GIS-based database that displays hundreds of the University's partnerships. CAE organizes the plethora of partnerships by category and location, and promotes the University's civic engagement.

Student Activities and Leadership Program (SALP)

http://web.pdx.edu/~salp/
Contact: (503) 725-4452

PSU's student organizations are actively involved in the Portland community. Students focus on a variety of topics such as education and social justice issues; students also lobby local and state governments. There are 13 registered students organizations dedicated to service and advocacy issues.

Selection of Partnerships

Portland Regional Assets – PSU's institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies, partners with Portland's Regional Partners for Business to develop studies and a quarterly newsletter addressing regional economic issues. The newsletter researches competitiveness strategies and focuses on how Portland compares with 13 key competitor regions and how changes in Portland and in these competitor regions affect Portland's competitiveness.

Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp for Children and Adults with Disabilities – an experimental college course where interested students enroll as counselors and work to provide children and adults with disabilities with camping and recreation experiences.

El Programa Hispano – The department of foreign language, in cooperation with Portland Catholic Charities, provide an array of social and mental health services to low-income, non-English speaking Latinos in the Portland area. The goal seeks to improve the Hispanic community's quality of life while allowing PSU Spanish students to use and improve their Spanish language skills and knowledge of Latino culture.

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Context

Temple's 254 acre campus in North Philadelphia is attended by over 30,000 students. Just north of the central city, North Philadelphia weathered significant decline beginning in the years following World War II. In recent years, parts of the area are experiencing resurgence and redevelopment, and it remains among the most diverse neighborhoods in Philadelphia, home to the second-most diverse university in the country. Philadelphia's population is 1.5 million and nearly 6 million people live in its metropolitan area.

Office of Community Service

http://www.temple.edu/community_service/
Contact: Monica Hankins, Assistant Director for Community Relations
          (215) 204-7505

The office of community service seeks to provide students with the resources and guidance necessary to become active and positive contributors for social change. There are three service organizations within the office: the Temple University Community Service Association (http://www.temple.edu/tucsa/), the Residential Organization for Community Service (http://www.temple.edu/rocs), and the Temple Chapter of Habitat for Humanity (http://www.temple.edu/community_service/habitatchapter.htm)

The office meets with local communities and residents to identify needs and work collaboratively to create programs and engage students. Some programs include community clean-ups, snow shoveling service, and the creation and maintenance of a neighborhood garden. The office also offers spring and winter break "immersion-service" trips, where students spend a week or more volunteering on fast-paced, high-impact service projects.

Selection of Temple Community Programs

http://www.temple.edu/community/c_impact.html

Human Resources Community Outreach Program – two full-time HR staff members work to increase the number of residents from surrounding neighborhoods who work at the University. Local residents are offered targeted training programs, such as resume writing and improving interviewing skills. Students are engaged with the community during these workshops, and in its first three months, the program has resulted in 125 target-area employees being hired.

Pan-African Studies Community Education Program (PASCEP) – Led by a small staff and over 80 volunteer faculty members, PASCEP offers a wide variety of practical and enrichment classes for community members at a very low cots (less than $50 per class). The dozens of available classes range from GED preparation to poetry and creative writing to martial arts.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Context

The University of Texas at Austin has enrollment of around 50,000 students on its approximately one-square mile urban campus. The population of the City of Austin is about 750,000 and nearly twice that many people live in the metropolitan area.

Office of Community and School Relations

http://www.utexas.edu/vp/csr/ocr/

Contact: Terry Wilson
             Associate Vice President for Community and School Relations
             (512) 232-4850

This office seeks to provide a mutual understanding and build relationships between the University and communities throughout Texas. The office promotes public service projects and coordinates outreach efforts. The office's outreach programs are primarily educational in nature and seek to improve area students' performance and promote diversity.

Volunteer and Service Learning Center

http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/vslc/index.php
Contact: (512) 471-6161

The VSLC promotes service learning and links student volunteers with civic initiatives. Each year, more than 8,000 students participate in more than 14 programs throughout the community. The primarily student-run organization works on a variety of student programs, such as helping the homeless, mentoring local children, and raising AIDS awareness among the student body.

Recent Initiatives

Neighborhood Beautification – Over 2,000 students, faculty, and staff members volunteered to clear brush, pick up trash, and assist with landscaping in the north Austin neighborhoods. Beginning in 1999, each year, the University has worked with local schools, organizations, and businesses to implement neighborhood beautification projects throughout Austin communities.

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

Context

VCU is located in downtown Richmond, Virginia. Richmond ("the River City") has a population of around 200,000 people; its metropolitan statistical area is home to nearly 1.2 million residents. The 30,000-student University has two campuses in urban Richmond: the main academic campus and a medical campus.

VCU Office of Community Programs

http://www.vcu.edu/ocp/

The office of community programs overseas the University's community engagements and is the "front door" to the variety of community initiatives at VCU, which includes 16 separate community programs. The programs range from community non-profit capacity building to mentoring programs for at-risk youth. The full list is available from the office's website, listed above.

Following is an example of one of the programs in the University's community outreach portfolio:

> **VCU Community Solutions**
>
> http://www.vcu.edu/communitysolutions
>
> "VCU Community Solutions connects the university with the community to create opportunities for social change." (VCU 2007)
>
> VCU Community Solutions formed a task force of community leaders, faculty, and the public and over the period of two years determined that VCU Community Solutions would initially focus on early childhood development and youth violence prevention. The department has partnered with 11 community organizations, targeted city offices, and several national organizations that focus on the identified community priorities.

Recent Initiatives

Center for Environment Life Sciences – A community member, Inger Rice, pledged $2 million for the construction of a 6,000 square foot center, to be constructed on an ecologically vibrant 343 acre parcel in Richmond. Youth from community schools will be able to collect samples from the nature preserve and immediately analyze them in the center, which will be outfitted with all the necessary equipment and enjoy faculty support. VCU contributed $500,000 towards the project.

"Give Kids a Smile Day" – In January, VCU partnered with the Virginia Dental Association to offer free preventive dental care to area youth, in an effort to bring attention to the epidemic of untreated oral disease among disadvantaged children. The program started in 2003 and in 2006, nearly 90 dental students and professionals took part.

APPENDIX: RANKINGS OF USUS BY ENROLLMENT, AREA POPULATIONS, AND LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Table 1. Urban Serving Universities Organized by Student Enrollment

	Enrollment	Urban Core Area (in thousands)	Metropolitan Area (in thousands)
City University of New York	400,000	8100	18800
University of Minnesota	50,000	350	3100
University of Texas at Austin	50,000	750	1500
Florida International University	38,000	400	5500
University of Cincinnati	35,200	331	2100
University of Houston	35,000	2000	5000
Temple University	34,000	1500	6000
North Carolina State University	31,000	360	1000
Virginia Commonwealth University	30,000	220	1200
Indiana University-Purdue Indy	30,000	791	1900
University of Colorado-Denver	27,000	500	2400
Georgia State University	26,100	500	5100
Portland State University	24,000	500	2000
University of Akron	23,400	200	700
University of Memphis	21,000	681	1250
University of Alabama Birmingham	16,500	250	1200
University of New Orleans	16,000	485	4300
University of Missouri- St Louis	15,000	350	3000
University of Missouri- Kansas City	15,000	450	2000

Table 2. Urban Serving Universities Organized by Population of Urban Core

	Urban Core (in thousands)	Metropolitan Area (in thousands)	Enrollment
City University of New York	8100	18800	400000
University of Houston	2000	5000	35000
Temple University	1500	6000	34000
Indiana University-Purdue Indy	791	1900	30000
University of Texas at Austin	750	1500	50000
University of Memphis	681	1250	21000
University of Colorado-Denver	500	2400	27000
Georgia State University	500	5100	26100
Portland State University	500	2000	24000
University of New Orleans	485	4300	16000
University of Missouri- Kansas City	450	2000	15000
Florida International University	400	5500	38000
North Carolina State University	360	1000	31000
University of Minnesota	350	3100	50000
University of Missouri- St Louis	350	3000	15000
University of Cincinnati	331	2100	35200
University of Alabama Birmingham	250	1200	16500
Virginia Commonwealth University	220	1200	30000
University of Akron	200	700	23400

Table 3. Urban Serving Universities Organized by Population of Metropolitan Area

	Metropolitan Area (in thousands)	Urban Core (in thousands)	Enrollment
City University of NY	18800	8100	400000
Temple University	6000	1500	34000
Florida International University	5500	400	38000
Georgia State University	5100	500	26100
University of Houston	5000	2000	35000
University of New Orleans	4300	485	16000
University of Minnesota	3100	350	50000
University of Missouri- St Louis	3000	350	15000
University of Colorado-Denver	2400	500	27000
University of Cincinnati	2100	331	35200
Portland State University	2000	500	24000
University of Missouri- Kansas City	2000	450	15000
Indiana University-Purdue Indy	1900	791	30000
University of Texas at Austin	1500	750	50000
University of Memphis	1250	681	21000
University of Alabama Birmingham	1200	250	16500
Virginia Commonwealth University	1200	220	30000
North Carolina State University	1000	360	31000
University of Akron	700	200	23400

Table 4. Urban Serving Universities' Impacts on their Local Economies

Institution	Impact (in Millions)
City University of New York	17800
University of Texas at Austin	7400
University of Minnesota	3300
University of Houston	3100
Temple University	2980
University of Alabama Birmingham	2900
North Carolina State University	2550
Georgia State University	2550
Florida International University	1700
University of Cincinnati	1520
Virginia Commonwealth University	1500
University of Memphis	1430
Portland State University	1070
University of Missouri- St Louis	1000
University of Missouri- Kansas City	1000
University of Colorado-Denver	1000
University of Akron	1000
Indiana University-Purdue Indy	1000
University of New Orleans	NA
total	54800