



East St. Louis Action Research Project

College of Fine and Applied Arts

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

WELCOME

2006 Retreat



East St. Louis Action Research Project

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The

People

of

ESLARP





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ESLARP in East St. Louis

Community Partners

- Emerson Park Development Corporation
- South End New Development Organization
- Concerned Citizens of Precinct 12
- 41st St. Neighborhood Group
- The Village Theatre/Community Concepts
- Opal's House
- Eagle's Nest of St. Clair County
- Digital ESL
- American Bottom Conservancy
- Catholic Urban Programs
- The Neighborhood Law Office
- Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance
- East St. Louis Park District
- The East St. Louis Mayor's Office




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Collaborating with Community Partners

EPDC



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41ST ST.





Precinct 12 Clean-up




2006


Community-Based Learning

Is This *YOUR* South End?



Illegal Dumping is a large problem for many neighborhoods and often MISREPRESENTS the community as well as posing a great health Risk. Whether the dumping is from residents or outside sources, action needs to be taken by YOU.

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Collaborating with Community Partners

A little bit



goes a long way



The Village Theatre



Eagle's Nest construction



Opal's House





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Digital ESL

Computers in the Home,
Computer labs, Teen Tech
Team, Train the Trainer

American Bottom Conservancy

Grant research, Presentations, Tours

Catholic Urban Programs

Property assessments
Thrift Shop Clean-Up

The Neighborhood Law Office

Rush City - proposed resident buyout

Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance

Predatory lending, Housing Assessments

East St. Louis Park District

Family Reunion Tourism
Heritage Trail
OSLAD grant





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• **Transitions in the Coming Year**

- **New ESLARP Leadership**
- **NTAC - U of I Extension**
- **More Research Assistants in the Community**

ESLARP retreat May 21-22nd 2006,
Summary

The following summarizes the main discussion points of the ESLARP 2006 faculty/staff retreat.

ESLARP strengths in relation to Campus/CCTF priorities:

-What students take away from their college/UIUC experience:
Political and community engagement; Hands-on service as foundation for engagement;
Empowerment of students.

ESLARP weaknesses in relation to Campus/CCTF priorities:

-No one knows what we do; Lack of media attention; lack of involving political process.

ESLARP opportunities in relation to Campus/CCTF priorities:

-Involve new departments and extension:

Work with existing extension programs in the area; we can do the “people part” and help improve extensions image in ESL. If extension faculty from different departments is interested in working with ESL we should offer practical assistance and help establish connections.

-Incentives for New faculty to get involved:

People want to be invited! Re-introduce ourselves to different departments. Match faculty to projects in the community. ESLARP faculty and staff approach classes that would fit the needs in ESL. ESLARP’s established support system is a plus that could be “advertised”.

The problem of “different approaches” to working in partnerships was brought up.

-Improved visibility of ESLARP’s work:

Create a Core ESLARP skills seminar; Activate web-site to its fullest potential; Small publications (COPC, IL-APA, Student news letters etc.); ESLARP news letter to be distributed more on campus, Compile list of accomplishments to “Brag” about (Including student outcomes and physical improvements in ESL). Aim to be front page news.

-Make leaders out of Students:

This should include seeking acknowledgement for outstanding students (awards etc.), foster leadership and community activism, understanding/documenting the impact of ESLARP on students, mentoring RA’s.

To make leaders out of students we need to focus on instilling values (Diversity, partnership, understand impact of racism, understand attachment to place), building skills (Long involvement from under grad – grad students work well, small attainable projects good as well), and building knowledge. We need to think about how we do this intentionally and how we accomplish getting students excited about community development.

ESLARP's Guiding Principles:

- Community driven
- Sustainable, commitment to place
- Collaboration across disciplines
- Student professionalism (client understanding)
- Critical and conscious view of race, culture and circumstances. Reveal complexity of problems
- PICK UP TRASH

Other important ESLARP info:

Neighborhood Liaison RA's:

Six Ra's will work directly for ESLARP as Neighborhood liaisons (Janni as supervisor). This summer we will establish the list of partner organizations that will be assigned an RA (possibly SENDO, Precinct 12, Catholic Urban programs, EPDC, 41st street, Brooklyn). We will also develop a clear job description and we will advertise to fill these positions (some are filled with current RAs).

Technology/GIS/Web Committee:

A committee was established to continue a much needed discussion of the technology needs and services of ESLARP. This includes GIS and the Web site.

Fall Courses:

ESLARP should be present in classes, including faculty/staff presentations to classes.

Lynne: Junior studio, Ethics course (Might work with Vernon on oral History)

Stacy: UP260 (About 60 students, small projects), UP474 (ethnography of community development ESL/Campus)

Martin: LIS451

Bruce:

Other Possible courses:

LA101, UP101, Lisa's affordable housing course.

Africa project

Should be a CCTF proposal (A committee should be formed to discuss this including Bruce, Paul, LA/UP others?)