



This month, junior Jason Randall (Civil Engineering) shares his experience working on the Neighborhood Sustainability EPICS Team to develop a Creative Park in the Lincoln Neighborhood in Lafayette.

"The Neighborhood Sustainability (NS) EPICS Team works locally in Lafayette, Indiana with Faith

Community Development Corporation to collaboratively develop projects with the Lincoln Neighborhood that will help improve the lives and experiences of community members. Like many underrepresented neighborhoods, the Lincoln Neighborhood in Lafayette needs natural, outdoor space that provides a communal place for young people. To fill this need, the NS Team is collaborating with the people of the Lincoln Neighborhood to design and build a Creative Park near the Faith owned and operated Hartford Hub, named The People's Park as decided by members of the neighborhood. As the Project Partner Liaison of the NS Team, I have communicated and made valuable connections with the members of the Lincoln Neighborhood Meeting Group, the children of the neighborhood, and the volunteers at the Faith owned and operated Hartford Hub. The ideas and basis for the name, design, and play components come directly from our interactions with the neighborhood children, as they will be the primary users of the park. Attending the neighborhood meeting monthly, I have talked regularly with members and leaders of the community to develop these ideas into the design that the neighborhood wants and needs. We are planning to construct the park in Spring of 2021, with funding and volunteers from Lafayette ZF."



When Dr. Newton was hired in the College of Education in 2008, she was immediately interested in leading a study abroad program focused on service-learning. With the background of a Peace Corps volunteer and teacher, Dr. Newton was awarded a SAIL grant to develop a four-week *Maymester in Tanzania* program. Since 2010, students from across campus have been working in rural Tanzanian schools and earning Purdue credits for courses developed by Dr. Newton. Dr. Newton recognizes the importance of giving back to the host community while providing learning opportunities for students. She also works closely with students as they plan and implement their projects, emphasizing the importance of collaboration with Tanzanians, cultural and contextual relevance, sustainability, and long-term impacts.

To date, program participants have been awarded more than \$23,000 in Office of Engagement service-learning grants for a variety of projects. Nearly every year, the students have purchased rainwater tanks to improve drinking water quality. The largest project to date is the ongoing "Books for Boma" initiative for which students shipped 10,000 books to Boma Village and are in the process of building a library.

Dr. Newton notes, "The individuals implementing the projects have developed cross-cultural relationships that will last a lifetime; the impact and lessons learned are mutually beneficial; and everyone involved is better for their contributions."

COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: HOMESTEADCS



HomesteadCS has been working with Dr. Bob Kenley, Associate Professor of Practice in Industrial Engineering, and his SYS 350 class (Systems Theories and Approaches) to investigate how to best partner with Purdue concerning HomesteadCS' tenant education

classes. Dr. Kenley's class worked to ascertain what is currently available at Purdue, what is missing, and how to best ensure that students were aware of HomesteadCS' offerings. The project will help HomesteadCS meet the needs of students before they get into a housing issue and make students aware of their other programs such as Homeownership Education. The project is also going to allow HomesteadCS to move more into the digital age by helping them to place their education online. Executive Director, Marie Morse, notes, "We have been lucky to have several student classes and groups work with us through the years, and I am always so very impressed by the skill, dedication and 'thinking outside of my box' that they have. I am very impressed by the talent of our young people and their willingness to share. They always help us see things in a different light."

STUDENT GRANT PROGRAM FOR SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECTS

The Office of Engagement continues to invite applications for the Student Grant Program for Community Service/Service-Learning Projects, which seeks to expand the involvement of Purdue students in partnership with communities, nonprofit agencies, schools, and governmental bodies. Program application and guidelines can be found [HERE](#). The Spring 2021 deadline is **Wednesday, February 24, 2021**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis thereafter.

For more information contact Lisa Duncan at llduncan@purdue.edu or (765) 494-0899.

SERVICE-LEARNING RESOURCES

Brightspace Site for Instructors:

Request to be added [HERE](#)

Have a feature for our newsletter? Want to be added to our listserv? Looking for a community partner for your service-learning course?

Contact: [Lindsey Payne](#), Director of Service-Learning

JOANN MILLER EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD

The Office of Engagement seeks applications for the JoAnn Miller Exemplary Community Partner Award for 2020. This award recognizes local nonprofits, schools, or government units that contribute to the educational growth of Purdue students by providing volunteer and service-learning opportunities. It includes a \$1,000 cash prize. In 2015, the award was renamed in memory of JoAnn L. Miller, who was Associate Dean of Engagement and head of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Liberal Arts. She worked passionately to further engagement with the community by Purdue students, faculty, and staff. Past award winners include Glen Acres Elementary School, Caregiver Companion, Drug Free Coalition of Tippecanoe County, Food Finders Food Bank, Hanna Community Center, LTHC Homeless Services, and the Wabash Center.

Applications are due **Friday, March 5, 2021** at 5:00 PM and can be submitted [HERE](#).

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT & SERVICE-LEARNING SUMMIT

Registration is now open for the annual Engagement & Service-Learning Summit to be held virtually on **Thursday, March 4, 2021 from 9:00 - 11:30 AM**, hosted by the Office of Engagement.

This event serves to bring together faculty, staff, students, and community partners to discuss best practices in engagement and service-learning, highlight accomplishments, and increase collaboration opportunities. This year's virtual event will feature two tracks:

- **Track 1: Networking and Partnerships**

Participate in this highly interactive session on community-engaged project and partnership formation. Participants will explore roles and expectations, dialogue about best practices, and develop an aspirational framework for a future project or partnership. Participants can expect small group discussions, networking, and practical takeaways. Appropriate for community partners, faculty, staff, and students new to service-learning and engagement.

- **Track 2: Research Impacts 101**

Learn how to demonstrate the impact of your research in society. We will share concrete examples of research impact discussing why research impact matters and how partnerships are fostered. Appropriate for faculty and graduate students.

There is no cost to attend; however, registration is required and can be found [HERE](#).

