This month, graduate student Victoria Parker (ASEC) and alumnae Arionne Patterson (ASEC) and Katharine Sharp (Animal Sciences) share their experience collaborating with the Felege Hiywot Center as part of Dr. Mark Russell’s (ASEC) course on Global Learning in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (ASEC 590/ASEC 531) in Spring 2020.

The Felege Hiywot Center provides Indianapolis youth with the opportunity to become active members of their community through agriculture. With Felege Hiywot Center’s impact on the future of agriculture, our group felt it was important to spotlight the center’s efforts. We created the “Felege Hiywot Center: We Are the Future of Agriculture” book to exhibit the Felege Hiywot Center’s achievements in assisting students in gaining interactions and relationships with agriculture. The book is also a resource to educate Felege Hiywot Center students on the presence of Black farmers in U.S. agriculture. Additionally, the book provides students with interactive activities to show how much fun agriculture truly is. The “Felege Hiywot Center: We Are the Future of Agriculture” book will continue to be utilized as a resource to encourage youth to pursue agriculture. For easy accessibility, the booklet has been placed on the Felege Hiywot Center website (https://fhcenter.org/).

Dr. Sa Liu is an Assistant Professor in the School of Health Sciences in the College of Health and Human Sciences. She initiated a partnership in September 2019 to work with Martinsville Indiana Superfund Site Association (MISSA) and other community-based organizations to assess and address community exposure to environmental contaminants in groundwater, soil and indoor air. The academic-community partners are determined to take a community engaged research approach in conducting the projects so that research findings can be used by the community in design public health actions to mitigate the health risk.

Undergraduate students in Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences (OEHS) and Biomedical Health Science (BMHS) are deeply involved in the projects, supported by a Purdue students Service-Learning grant and other internal and external funds. Students work with community partners in outreach activities, field sampling, and results dissemination. Students have presented their work in Purdue Undergraduate Student Research Symposium, Service-Learning Summit, and national/international conferences, and are preparing a manuscript to be published in a scientific peer-reviewed journal. Meanwhile, students are also working on a project, Promoting Environmental Health Science Studies in a Digital Time, to promote an epidemiological study investigating neurobehavioral health effects of chemical exposure among children living near an EPA Superfund site in Indiana.
The Hartford Hub is a neighborhood center in the Lincoln neighborhood developed by Faith Community Development Corporation (Faith CDC) as an asset to help increase the quality of life for the residents. The Hub opened in 2016 and provides after school programming for the neighborhood children as well as a spot for the neighbors to meet and work on neighborhood goals. Purdue service-learning projects, past and present, with Dr. Jason Ware (Honors College) are helping the Lincoln neighborhood and Faith CDC gather data which can guide strategic planning. In addition, the research can provide a baseline to determine effectiveness of Faith CDC and the Hub. The Hub also will expand this beyond the Lincoln neighborhood to include other north end neighborhoods, which is the full target area for Faith CDC. Some of the research that’s completed or is ongoing includes property conditions profile, north end neighborhoods affordability study, Lincoln and Monon Neighborhood livability study, and resident wellness studies.

Lori Walters, Faith CDC Executive Director, remarked, “The information Dr. Ware and his students provide is incredibly important for planning and dreaming. We are grateful for their work and for this long-standing partnership.”

The Office of Engagement invites applications for the semester-long fall 2021 Service-Learning Fellows Program.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shifted courses and service opportunities to online platforms, and systemic racial injustice has gained ever more nation-wide attention. In the fall 2021 semester, instructors in partnership with service-learning staff and community partners will explore where service-learning fits into this ever-changing narrative and collaboratively develop the skills and tools needed to deliver effective, mutually beneficial service-learning courses.

Faculty and graduate student instructors are encouraged to apply. Up to $3,000 is available per project ($2,000 instructor discretionary funds and $1,000 community partner project). Applicants without community partners will be matched with one upon acceptance into the program.

Applications must be submitted online on or before Friday, April 16, 2021, at 5:00 PM EST. Inquiries may be directed to Lindsey Payne, Director of Service-Learning, Purdue Office of Engagement, paynel@purdue.edu
2021 ENGAGEMENT & SERVICE-LEARNING SUMMIT

The Office of Engagement’s annual Engagement & Service-Learning Summit was held virtually on Thursday, March 4, 2021.

This virtual event brought together 66 faculty and staff, 25 students, and 20 community partners to discuss best practices in engagement and service-learning, develop broader research impacts, and network around shared interests. The event also featured 14 virtual posters and digital stories showcasing exemplary student engagement at both our West Lafayette and Northwest campuses.

Check out the student Showcase submissions at our [Summit event website](#).

JOANN MILLER EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD 2020 WINNERS

YWCA of Greater Lafayette and LTHC Homeless Services have been co-awarded the Dr. JoAnn L. 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.

The award carries a $1,000 cash prize. Both YWCA and LTHC will be recognized at the Office of Engagement’s Annual Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, April 20, 3:00 PM, as well as the United Way Annual Volunteer Recognition Event on Thursday, April 22, 11:30 AM.

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 official spring 2021 deadline has passed, but new applications are still being reviewed on a rolling basis.

For more information contact Lisa Duncan at [llduncan@purdue.edu](mailto: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](mailto:Lindsey Payne), Director of Service-Learning

Website: [www.purdue.edu/engagement/](http://www.purdue.edu/engagement/)