

## **2022 Engagement & Service-Learning Summit Showcase Abstract Examples**

### **EXAMPLE 1: Community Exposure in Martinsville, Indiana**

Martinsville, Indiana is currently an EPA superfund site due to Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and Trichloroethylene (TCE) contaminants from former dry-cleaning operations in the area. The aim of this pilot community-engaged research project was to determine the levels of these contaminants and the extent of the community's exposure by sampling exhaled breath, indoor air, and water samples from community members living in the impacted area. Working with community partners, we collected and analyzed these samples. During our sampling, we informed residents about the potential health effects of PCE and TCE. Furthermore, we were able to hear about their health-related experiences and concerns. Although the results of the collected samples revealed negligible amounts of TCE, PCE was found in 60% of indoor air samples and in 100% of both tap water and exhaled breath samples. We reported the results to each individual participant and presented aggregated results to the community in a Town Hall meeting organized by our community partners.

### **EXAMPLE 2: Create A Voice: Empowerment Through a Photo Novella for Underserved Populations in Indiana**

A photo novella is presented as an effective and creative method that allows people to document and discuss their life conditions as they see them through pictures. Additionally, photo novellas serve as a valuable platform for sharing information with those with a diverse range of educational, familial, and cultural backgrounds. A partnership through Multicultural Efforts to end Sexual Assault (MESA) allowed for the ability to engage and distribute photo novellas into the hands of undocumented children, rural women, migrant farm workers, and others with little access to those who make decisions over their lives. Through the power of photography, this process of empowerment enables the Latino community in Indiana to effectively communicate their rights if ever in a situation of fear.