

Healthy Food, Healthy Community

Improving Access to Healthy Food

Randi Love, Clinical Associate Professor, Health Behavior & Health Promotion; Jill Clutter, Instructor, Allied Medical Professions. Community Partner: Sandy Gill, Cardiovascular Health Initiative, Columbus Public Health

Courses: Allied Medicine 670, Public Health 850

To improve access to healthy food in areas of Columbus with high numbers of uninsured and impoverished residents, undergraduates in allied medicine and graduate students in public health completed environmental scans, noting assets and barriers to a healthy lifestyle. Undergraduates conducted food availability and cost surveys. Graduate students interviewed key neighborhood informants and conducted focus groups regarding perceptions of access to healthy food, eating and buying habits, and the feasibility of food access strategies.

Students found that fresh produce and meat were not readily available in most stores. Stores located in poorer areas had the most highly priced food items, many of which were nutritionally poor. Students compiled a report for the community partner, Columbus Public Health, that was used to develop an action plan to suggest strategies to bring healthier food into the community and help the community prioritize its efforts. The information gathered by the students would have been difficult for the agency to obtain using existing personnel. Results have been widely shared with other agencies serving the area. The immediate benefit is increased interest in the issue of the availability and accessibility of healthy food and the identification of potential collaborators.

The community-based research approach provides extraordinary benefits for students, preparing them to become active, committed citizens and practitioners in a diverse society.



- A reciprocal working relationship between Culliver and OSU Mansfield is helping bridge gaps between academic culture and the population using the center.
- Culliver and OSU were able to use multiple resources, build valuable relationships, complement their strengths, and share ideas for innovative programming.
- The graduate students gained experience working with students from low-income families and learned how to address different needs.
- The undergraduate students learned to write lesson plans with a target audience in mind.

Projects like this help us embrace successful growth and afford us an opportunity to achieve shared goals.

Angela Holt, Culliver Reading Center

Reciprocity in service-learning partnerships means doing something with the community, not for the community.

Kathleen Rice and Brenda James

Mission Possible

Providing Quality Programming Mathematics at the Culliver Reading Center through Service-Learning

OSU Mansfield faculty and staff: Terri Bucci, Associate Professor, Math, Science, & Technology; Sheila Elcess, Coordinator, Educational Field Experience; Kris Moloney, Academic Program Specialist, Conard Learning Center; Michelle Persinger, Laboratory Specialist; Ed Wachtel, Technology Teaching Lab. Community Partners: Inez Shepherd and Angela Holt, Culliver Reading Center

Courses: Math 105, 106, 107; Education T&L 708.70; Education T&L 884.23

To help children learn to enjoy math by improving their skills is the "Mission Possible" undertaken by OSU Mansfield students. Master of Education graduate students tutored K-7 students weekly at the Culliver Reading Center, which provides standards-based after-school programs for disadvantaged youth. They observed, recorded, and analyzed the most frequent math errors and misconceptions. Graduate students shared findings with 62 undergraduates enrolled in three courses related to elementary-level mathematics teaching. Undergraduates developed lesson plans targeting the errors, aligned the plans with state standards, and incorporated instructional strategies based on best practice research. Pretest-posttest results showed significant improvement in the average score for the second-grade students. As a result of this program, Culliver and OSU are developing a regular volunteer program for the center, which will provide field placement for undergraduates in Freshman Early Experience.