

Sustainable approaches that meet community needs

Columbus Literacy Council/OSU Literacy Partnership

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Courses: English 367, English 567C, Spanish 367

The Columbus Literacy Council (CLC) and OSU Literacy Partners sought to develop a new learning model that blends reading, writing, and electronic pedagogies. The immediate goal was to investigate how and whether use of computer-assisted software could allow CLC to reach more adults who come there to learn how to read and write in English. Students in English 367 provided a consistent supply of tutors for CLC and deepened their learning about the multifaceted cultures that comprise the “American experience.” The students worked with adult ESL students, providing encouragement and offering assistance with English and with the operation of the computers. OSU students kept a written progress report of CLC students to help keep them on track. They chose a question about literacy to investigate and a genre in which to present their findings. They worked with one of their literacy partners at CLC to produce a project that would be of use to the CLC student. These projects included scrapbooks of English words with the CLC student’s home language translations, applications for jobs or college admission, letters to friends or family, and a description of one CLC student’s art.

Transactive planning allows students to learn from citizens and citizens to learn from the students.



Rebuilding Mississippi

Partnering for Literacy



Rebuilding the Mississippi Gulf Coast

Jennifer Evans-Cowley, Associate Professor, Knowlton School of Architecture. Community Partners: Harrison County, Mississippi; Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District

Course: City & Regional Planning 852

It is hard to believe what Hurricane Katrina wrought in the Gulf Coast, and in the midst of the devastation, it may be harder to envision what could be. City and regional planning students implemented a hands-on, inclusive approach to involving residents of DeLisle and Saucier in Harrison County, Mississippi, in rebuilding plans. Going beyond the drawing board, the team prepared monthly newsletters to communicate the progress of the planning process with the citizens of Harrison County and hosted two town hall meetings to discuss the plans. Residents were able to vote on their preferences for housing styles, setbacks, town centers, and other development options. These plans will help guide the long-term investment by the county in new infrastructure, public facilities, and land use change. See the plans at <http://www.co.harrison.ms.us/departments/zoning/downloads.asp>.

- The project attracted a grant of \$266,741 through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Universities Rebuilding America Partnership initiative to continue the efforts of this project over the next 2 years.
- The project team received two national awards from the American Planning Association: the 2006 Excellence in Economic Development Planning Award from the Economic Development Division and the Jim Segedy Award for Outstanding Student Project from the Small Town and Rural Division.