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OU/Pontiac Partners hip Newsletter

Dec 3, 2015



The OU/Pontiac Initiative seeks to develop a mutually beneficial relationship between the university and the community of Pontiac. This will be accomplished by building a greater university presence within the city, promoting experiential learning opportunities and encouraging more student activities to be planned at downtown Pontiac venues.

This newsletter will be sent out every two weeks to keep participants in the Initiative informed about these activities and more. We are looking forward to launching the Initiative's new website soon and building a social media presence.

Your patience and participation are encouraged, as we want this newsletter to spark conversation. If there is anything you would like to see included in the next newsletter regarding developments in the Initiative, contact communication interns (see contact information below).



Mark your calendars for the next OU/Pontiac Initiative Town Hall meeting:
Saturday, March 5, 2016

**Survey says OU, Pontiac communities willing to
work together**

by **Anthony Spak**

Medical student as educator

by **Shaqela Chapman**

The Medical Student as Educator assignment is a required component of the Arts and Practice of Medicine course for Oakland University William Beaumont (OUWB) School of Medicine students and requires first year medical students to teach a one-hour health lesson in local schools. A student-led evaluation pointed to the need for an easy-to-read lesson for the schools. Twenty-seven Pontiac elementary school teachers participated in the Medical Student as Educator series, with 65 medical students presenting to about 500 students. Elementary classroom teachers were sent a list of lesson topics, such as:

- Finding the Balance
- Food Group Fun
- Managing Strong Feelings



- Physical Activity, Rest and Sleep
- Terrible Tobacco
- Washing Hands the Right Way
- What's in Food

More than one-third of classroom teachers selected the 'Managing Strong Feelings' lesson. This series supports classroom goals of improving the health and wellness of students, while positively impacting the learning environment at no cost to the Pontiac school district.

Asset mapping highlights community resources, needs

by Paige Brockway

Through asset mapping, the OU/Pontiac Initiative is mapping out existing relationships, resources and services shared between the university and the city. For example, some resources on the asset map include Pontiac-based events on campus, student interns placed in the city and volunteers and organizations involved in the partnership. In addition to documenting existing assets, the mapping process will also help identify needs that can be met through the partnership.



Each asset is geocoded, which means that it is assigned a latitude and longitude value on the map. The mapping software then cross references the locations to help pinpoint existing relationships and determine which relationships can be strengthened through the involvement of students, residents, community leaders and faculty.

Cassandra Barragan, assessment coordinator at OU, spoke about the asset mapping process at the Town Hall meeting on Nov. 14. "The database is growing every day," Barragan said. "I anticipate this tool being an integral part of linking Pontiac and OU."

If all goes according to plan, the asset map will be made available to the public in early 2016.

Wade McCree Scholar awarded Prestigious University Honors

By Shaqela Chapman

Kayla Fike is one of three students who received the Matilda R. Wilson Award. Before graduating in May 2015, she distinguished herself as an outstanding scholar and leader on campus and in the community. Fike maintained an impressive 3.81 GPA and served as a research assistant in OU's Department of Psychology. She was the treasurer of Intrigue, OU's hip-hop dance team. While in school she also participated as a mentor in OU's Pre-College Programs and a co-facilitator with Simple Methods for Anger

**WADE H. MCCREE
INCENTIVE SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM**



Relief Training (SMART). Her accomplishments do not stop there. She was also involved in an anger management program in the Waterford and Walled Lake school districts, volunteered with Center Stage Soup Kitchen and the Baldwin Center in Pontiac, along with interning at the Dreams Realized through Academic Mentoring (DREAM). She also presented research at the Meeting of the Minds Conference and the Society for Research in Child Development Conference. Her efforts earned her a place on the dean's list for seven consecutive semesters. Kayla Fike is the perfect example of a strong leader who has utilized the resources that Oakland University has to offer its students.

Bucket Ideas

We are still sorting through and organizing the bucket ideas from the Town Hall meeting. The meeting generated a dozen new project ideas that will be discussed in the upcoming months and identified 20 organizations looking for volunteers and interns. We also heard some concerns about duplication and barriers, about which we have been thoughtful; we plan to address those at our next Coordinating meeting and as they emerge.

Celebrating Successes

Do you have something exciting you have accomplished as part of a collaborative between Oakland University and Pontiac? Do you have content ideas for our next newsletter? Does your organization need something? Let us know!

Contact us

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