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OU/Pontiac Partners hip e-blast6

March 2, 2016



Are you coming to Saturday's town hall meeting? If so, make sure to RSVP today! The meeting is March 5, 8:30 a.m.-noon and will be held in Oakland University's Engineering Center. A link to the campus map with parking information is below. Read on for a preview of the agenda items.

If you would like to request an article about your group, business or organization in this e-blast or if you have any events or news items, send them to baldwin2@oakland.edu.

Happy Reading!

Town Hall meeting has something for everyone

If you're curious about what's been happening since the last town hall meeting in November, you may want to attend this Saturday's Town Hall meeting. In addition to a few great speakers, we have an exciting agenda planned.



Overview of projects

The agenda includes brief presentations by leaders of the various projects that originated from the brainstorming sessions at the November meeting as well as information about projects that have been going on since the beginning of the partnership.

Deep dive panel presentation

There will also be a deep dive panel discussion where participants will share the status of their projects, the challenges and needs and how their projects have impacted both the Pontiac and OU community.

Q & A session

Maybe you have a question about the partnership or a particular project. There will also be a Q & A session to give you the chance to find the answer you need.

Breakout sessions

Many of you have said how valuable it is to attend meetings and share ideas. Our breakout sessions will allow you to do just that. We are relying on you to bring your good ideas and proven practices or resources as well as your challenges and collaborate to solve some problems. These sessions will allow you time to brainstorm around various topics such as: getting an OU student intern, brainstorming and support for businesses, transportation strategies, funding needs, planning and organizing, attendance issues, engaging parents, immigration issues, program evaluation, promoting and marketing your program and using design thinking for partnership planning. Make sure to bring your business cards.

Summer camps and tutoring program information

We plan to reveal the first areas of the asset map and show how it will work. Two categories of special interest right now are summer camps and tutoring. If your organization offers either or both of these types of programs, we want to know so we can add you to the asset map! We will collect this information at the meeting or you can email Diane Baldwin at baldwin2@oakland.edu if you will not be at the meeting.

Project meeting space

If your planning group would like to stay after the meeting to work as a group, the Kresge Library and the Oakland Center are within close walking distance to the Engineering Center. Food and drinks are available at the Oakland Center.

Time, date, location

Saturday, March 5, 2016

8:30 a.m. - noon

Location: Engineering Center (on the campus of Oakland University)

[OU campus map \(EC39; park in P36\)](#)

RSVP-there's still time

Send RSVP to Tammye Stoves at stoves@oakland.edu

City Girls Soap, a goat farm, offered internships to ITA students

By Shaqela Chapman

A select group of International Technology Academy (ITA) students were selected to complete a four-week internship at City Girls Soap, an urban goat farm located in Pontiac. The interns were exposed to the day-to-day tasks necessary to keep City Girls Soap moving forward. Tasks included but were not limited to: the care and upkeep of the goats, production, packaging, marketing, order fulfillment, selling at market and sales calls. Lisa Smolinski, ITA counselor, is proud of this community match. "I felt that this opportunity was truly a beneficial one for our students. It gave them exposure to a new environment and helped them gain real work experience," she said.

Anonymous student evaluations showed they enjoyed the experience. "I was hoping there were more opportunities to go back and work at City Girls Soap because it was a great learning experience," said one student. "It was a new, fun and interesting time working with the goats," said another. "I enjoyed learning about the homemade business and felt that it was a valuable experience," added another student.

Reading appraisal course brings Pontiac and OU students together

By Paige Brockway

Every Wednesday night, Professor Tanya Christ's RDG 414: Reading Appraisal students visit Pontiac's Baldwin Center to mentor elementary-aged students and tutor them in reading.

Twenty undergraduate preservice teachers from OU serve approximately 30 children, who range from kindergarten to eighth grade. In the course, undergraduates learn to assess literacy skills and needs, then implement individualized instruction based on the assessment results.

The undergraduates work in small teams with the students based on grade level. Christ supervises the collaboration, supports the undergraduates and helps them reflect on the experience. Rebecca Stewart, education director at the Baldwin Center, is also on hand to help coordinate the learning process.

The Reading Appraisal course takes place completely on site at the Baldwin Center, and has been run two to three times per year since 2009.

Moving forward, the program is finding new ways to incorporate culturally-relevant text and digital literacies. For example, the undergraduates help each student create a video biography and use video clips to document their progress throughout the semester.

Christ has also created a database to track the students' assessment and attendance data and map the success of the program over time.



Young scholar-athletes posing with the Grizz at an OU doubleheader game, Feb 13

Sky's the Limit ("STL") is a non-profit organization that works for the betterment of youth in the City of Pontiac and surrounding communities. The main goal of STL is to promote the intellectual, moral and physical development of our scholar-athletes and to educate them on the virtues of integrity, leadership, teamwork, confidence, self-discipline, pride, good sportsmanship and self-esteem in victory and defeat, and to enhance and strengthen community involvement. For more information about this group, visit their [website](#) or contact Chris Riley at SKYSTHELIMITTRAVEL@live.com.

Thirty student-scholars and chaperones from Sky's the Limit attended this game courtesy of OU Athletics. For more information about group discounts for next year's basketball season, contact Fleetwood Fleming, Director of Ticket Sales and Operations at 248-370-3167 or fleming@oakland.edu. Remember that baseball and softball seasons have just begun. Home games are free to attend. Ask about other sporting events throughout the year.

Contact us

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