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May 2012

CSU Students Contribute to AC77



Students and ICA colleagues listen as CSU students share their contributions to the AC77 project.

Students from Chicago State University (CSU) came to the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) building at 4750 N. Sheridan Rd. to give presentations on their participation in ICA's Accelerate 77 (AC77) project.

Daniel Block, Associate Professor of Geography at CSU, brought more than a dozen graduate and undergraduate geography students to give their findings, which included PowerPoint presentations and question and answer sessions. Each group of two to three students discussed the two community areas they researched, covering each area's demographics, local issues and community-driven sustainability programs.

The class is one of a number from Chicago area universities that are contributing to Accelerate 77, the effort to find and catalog local sustainable and environmentally supportive efforts in each of the city's 77 community areas. Classes and individual students from DePaul, Northeastern Illinois, Loyola, Roosevelt, and St. Xavier universities have also been active. As of May 10, 2012, 55 community areas have been covered by almost 200 students.

The goal of AC77 is to increase the role and positive impact of local communities in realizing objectives of the Chicago Climate Action Plan. The hope is to connect them with one another to inspire new ideas, practices, self-consciousness and motivation through peer interchange, while also engaging residents in systematic learning, planning, and collective action. The project is anticipated to accelerate environmental sustainability in a bottom-up fashion driven by practical action, expanded imagination, and greater organizational capacities among local groups.

Learning Basket Prepares for Program Development



A Readiness Basket class goes into session in Phoenix, AZ.

ICA's Learning Basket program has been busy in recent months with expansion in the reach of its work.

K. Elise Packard, Learning Basket Consultant, and Katie Kretzmann, Learning Basket Coordinator, recently met with ICA-Guatemala colleagues in Phoenix, AZ. The two met with Angelica Rodriguez and Raul Jorquera and learned about the development of the Readiness Basket in that country. Elise and Katie were also able to speak with Joaquina Rodriguez, who was visiting from Guatemala and helping to facilitate the programs in Phoenix. Joaquina is returning to her home in Guatemala, where she will be working with ICA-Guatemala to develop a Learning Basket program there with families of young school children.

The Readiness Basket Program is a sister program of the Learning Basket promoting school readiness in Arizona. The November 2011 Think Tank event laid the foundation for the expansion work and research for the Learning Basket program, and was followed by continued research into existing best practices and school readiness curricula. The research was then distilled and organized during development of the materials for the project. The new materials will be piloted in two Learning Basket programs, one for early childhood programs and one parent group, during the fall of 2012.

Austin ICA Colleagues Gather for a 50th Anniversary Celebration



Austin, TX, ICA colleagues and Terry Bergdall discuss topics during the celebration.

George and Wanda Holcombe hosted a 50th Anniversary Celebration for colleagues in the Austin, TX, area. ICA President and CEO Terry Bergdall joined the festivities.

Terry spoke about events in ICA's past, current activities and future possibilities.

The event was actually part of a longstanding series of gatherings of colleagues in the Austin area going back 20 years. In fact, one of the couples had been involved with some of the earliest work with ICA in Chicago. Al and JoAnn Williams, now residents of Austin, were among the first families with children to move into Fifth City in 1963. The event was Terry's first chance to connect with the couple.

From the Global Archives

Ten people worked on the Global Archives during the two-week Sojourner Program in the ICA's building at 4750 N. Sheridan Rd. held in Chicago, April 30 - May 11. The colleagues volunteering included Beret Griffith, Norma Jackson, Vera Ariel Barber, Pat Benjamin, Paul Noah, Pamela Bergdall, Rosemary Albright, Sally Fenton, Marge Philbrook and Jean Long.

The group processed Town Meeting '76 records from 50 states. The majority of the Town Meeting documents had already been filed in separate folders and entered into the database. During processing, approximately 40 Town Meeting documents that had never been recorded were discovered. The team also found materials from the Global Women's Forum in India.

Pamela was trained to use the slide scanner. She processed about 400 slides from India and six slides of Joe Mathews.

The next Sojourner Program is planned for October 8 -19, 2012. Colleagues will be working on the Human Development projects and training programs, including the Academy.

The Archives Team has a mystery to solve. They have a Brockton, MA Faculty Congress Document from December 5 and 6, 1979. Marge has also found a New York Times article dated September 28, 2010, highlighting Brockton High School as a national leader in education. The team would like to know if anyone is familiar with the document and can share some background information.