

## **Dr. Peterson**

### **Westside Communities Alliance: Ford, Surdna, and Arthur Blank Foundations**

Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2013

#### **Westside Georgia Tech Taskforce**

##### **Honors Program: Semester in the City**

- Students study the history of Atlanta, and meet with community stakeholders. The end goal is that students will develop projects beneficial to the neighborhood. For example, one student created a social media site for the community.
- One of legacy programs is the Youth Enrichment Program: a group of students goes to Bellwoods Boys and Girls Club to mentor.

##### **Community Historian Project: Work with Historic Westside Cultural Arts Council**

- Chris LeDantec distributes iPhones to a small group who document their community over the course of a week. Using GIS technology the digital images are remotely mapped and historically traced.
- Project Studio: Food and Technology: Working with the Friends of the English Avenue Community Urban Farm, graduate students develop a suite of technological tools to track, chart, and display the productivity of the farm.

##### **WCA Discussion Series**

- Focus on economic development and education, topics pertinent to Westside communities.
- Parent STEM Portal: Betsy DiSalvo, Human Centered Computing: In conjunction with Morehouse School of Medicine and One Ring Network, who gifted internet access to households of 4 Westside schools, DiSalvo interviews parents, recruited by Parents As Partners Academic Center, to determine parent uses and views on technology to develop community-based designs for a Parent Portal.

**Architecture Design Studio:** Students develop models of the English Ave. and Vine City communities.

### **Project Studio**

- Graduate students developed 4 extensive proposals to advance Northside Drive as a prominent transit corridor.

### **Parker H. Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience (Bob Nerem)**

- Project ENGAGE (**Engaging New Generations At Georgia Tech through Engineering**) - where we are partnered with two high schools on the west side, the B.E.S.T. Academy and the Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy, both part of the Atlanta Public School System.

Some of their activities:

- During this school year Dr. Manu Platt and his team have been interacting with the biology class at each of these two schools.
- Starting June 3rd, 12 students (6 from each of these two schools) started doing research in IBB, full time in the summer and 15-20 hours a week during the school year; these students are paid and they are not allowed to hold any other part-time job.
- Working with GTRI we will use their D2D high bandwidth video conferencing system to connect the two schools to GT, e.g. connecting a classroom in one of these high schools to a laboratory in IBB so that the students can participate from a remotely in an experiment here.

### **Healthy Place Research Group**

- Meets monthly to facilitate discussion and networking among the many disciplines working to create healthy places and improve the relationship between health and the built environment.

### **Healthy Beltline**

- Working group focusing on improving health for communities surrounding the Beltline such as improvements to Maddox Park.

## **CORe**

- Volunteers help students with their academics, and work to create a mentoring relationship. Tutoring takes place at City of Refuge approximately 15 minutes from Tech.

## **EMBODI (Empowering Males to Build Opportunities for Developing Independence)**

- To address specific needs of young African American males such as the importance of higher ed., self-respect, social responsibility, and community service. Men from Tech's African American community lead small discussion groups.

## **Youth Enrichment Program**

- Dedicated to building connections between Tech and the youth of the English Avenue Community to enrich educational opportunities available to them.

## **Techwood Tutorial Project**

- The oldest continuing community service program on Tech's campus, founded in the spring of 1964 by a group of concerned students and faculty who were aware of social and academic deficiencies in children in the Techwood/Clark-Howell Housing Project. Continues to operate under its original purpose. Today it pairs GT students with a child from Centennial Place Elementary School. Tech students in TTP tutor at least one hour a week, as well as joining them for outings.

**JumpStart:** National literacy organization. Year-long mentorship with preschool-aged children

**GT NOMAS** (National Organization of Minority Architecture Students)

- To foster opportunities for minority architecture students. Volunteer at Centennial Place Elementary to teach students about architecture and design.

**GT Trust**

- Works in collaboration with Antioch Baptist Church. Tech students provide academic support for elementary and middle schoolboys in the Phoenix Boys Association. They come to campus every Monday and Tuesday.

**CEISMC Mentoring**

- All Kids Count in Atlanta is a program to improve math education in the Atlanta Public Schools System. Tech Federal Work-Study students help at risk students who need remedial help, and high achieving students who can benefit from mathematical explorations beyond the classroom.

**Community Connections**

- Every summer FASET students do a project. In 2012 they had a collection drive to benefit the Atlanta Day Shelter for Women and Children.

**Social Justice Committee**

- Housed in the School of City and Regional Planning in the College of Architecture. Addresses issues of inequality in metro Atlanta through action and advocacy in planning. Current projects focus on food access and transportation safety issues in the Pittsburgh neighborhood. Past projects include a redevelopment plan in a small block in English Avenue, a brownfield cleanup of

Peoplestown, crime prevention through urban design in Home Park, and town hall meetings on the impact of the new Falcons Stadium.