



GROUP PROJECTS

OBJECTIVES:

- To promote enhanced awareness of community and provide experience in addressing community needs.
- To provide class members opportunity for utilizing group dynamics in a small group/committee setting: interacting, bonding, consensus building, group/team leadership skills.
- To provide experience in evolution of a community project and the leadership needed for implementation.

PROCESS:

- Class members assigned to small groups; each group selects an identifying name for group.
- Each group chooses own project that it will develop during the Emerge Program from a list of issues impacting the community identified by the participants in their application essays.
- Groups meet as frequently as necessary to accomplish group's goals.
- Emerge Faculty will be available to groups as Advisors and resource persons to your group throughout the year. Please network with them, inviting them to your meetings, if you wish, and updating them along the way.
- Please remember: Emerge, as an affiliate organization of the Chamber and EDC, does not take stands on issues in the community. For this reason, Emerge, the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corp. should not be regarded as a sponsor of your projects.

STEPS:

- Choose community need/issue to be addressed and submit to staff by the January meeting
- Research issue/need to determine what is already being done.
- Decide on action path (how your group will address need)
- Begin process of building project, bringing it to a point of action. (some groups may choose to continue project following graduation)
- Consider all aspects of project (financial needs and resources; community collaborations, possible obstacles; and leadership techniques needed to assure the success of the project).
- The project is a required component of the Emerge point system, representing 50 out of the 150 points needed to graduate.
- Group projects will be presented at the April 28th "Changing Your Community" Session.
These projects should include:
 - A written summary
 - Group oral presentation taking the form of PowerPoint, skit, brochures, etc.

TOPICS

Community Issues Identified by Class Participants:

Homeless Issue and Lack of Homeless Shelters
Brain Drain/ Retention of College Educated Young Professionals
Job Opportunities/ Economic Growth
Downtown Development
Isolation/ Lack of Transportation (Interstate Highway) Infrastructure
Workforce Development/ Lack of an Educated Workforce
Citizens not being Educated about Higher Education Opportunities
Community Marketing Strategy/ Identity Crisis/ Image Enhancement
Control by Power Elite/ Generation Gap/ Lack of Leadership Opportunities for YPs
Lack of Year-Round Tourist Attractions and Accommodations for Tourists
Substance Abuse
Leniency within the Criminal Justice System
Lack of Eco-Friendly Programs
Health and Wellness of Owensboro Residents (especially children)
Lack of Entertainment Venues/ Things to Do for YPs (those with and without children)
Diversity, Tolerance and Openness
Negative Citizens/ Lack of Support for Change
Need for Government Unity/ Merger
Openness and Transparency in Government
Influence at the State and National Level/ Share of Federal and State Funding
Volunteerism
Lack of Knowledge and Financial Support regarding Non-profit and Community Organizations
Lack of Entrepreneurship and New Business Development

"Regional" Seven Revolutions Issues:

Public Health Issues/ Access to Health Insurance Coverage/ High Cost
Environmental Stewardship/ Dependence on Clean Coal
Innovation Framework/ Entrepreneurship/ Research and Development
Culture of Learning
Poverty and Inequality
Crisis of Males ("Bubbas")
Corporate Influence