

Progress Report:

CHASS Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development

April, 2010

CHASS EEED development in 2009-10 has followed the principles set forth in the strategic plan adopted by the Advisory Committee in 2008-09. During a period of severe budgetary limitations, the CHASS EEED program has managed to stabilize, expand modestly, and becoming increasingly visible within CHASS and the university community. Several new initiatives in 2009-10 have made extension and engagement more visible and provided more EEED options for CHASS faculty.

During the spring semester, CHASS EEED initiated a Brown Bag series to inform other faculty about current engagement activities conducted by CHASS faculty. Five different speakers made presentations of their engagement activities at the monthly Brown Bag meeting. John Begeny, David Zonderman, Jessica Jameson, Mark Wilson, and Walt Wolfram presented a diverse range of engagement options, ranging from community literacy programs and the production of community-based documentaries and exhibits to consultation with Social Security Administration on the Occupational Information Development Advisory Panel and the presentation of the EDGES (Education and Discovery Grounded in Engaged Scholarship) program. These presentations were highly informative and well-received, though attendance was modest. More importantly, they represented the robust and diverse range of EEED activities conducted by CHASS faculty.

A second CHASS EEED initiative in 2009-10 supported faculty who were invited to give school and civic presentations. An honorarium of \$150 (as a pay supplement or credit for the purchase of equipment and supplied or professional activity) was offered to faculty who gave presentations at schools or civic organizations, in addition to travel reimbursement. Six faculty have been approved for such stipends. This pilot incentive program has proven to be successful and will be expanded in the future, based on available funding.

A third initiative was the sponsorship of the first annual university-wide program to help promote engagement. This year, CHASS EEED worked with CHASS Office of Diversity and the University Multicultural Affairs to host the premiere of "Spanish Voices", a documentary produced and directed by Danica Cullinan under the auspices of the North Carolina Language and Life Project. Spanish speakers from across the globe, bilingual second-generation US citizens, and non-Spanish speakers all weave an up-close portrait of the rapidly changing linguistic and cultural landscape of the Southeastern United States. The film was followed by a panel discussion on the effects of migration in the Southeast United States by professional and community representatives. The premiere and panel discussion was the first annual university activity offered by CHASS EEED, but its success has established a precedent for hosting an annual university-wide activity.

While CHASS EEED awaits administrative reorganization and more budgetary support, its progress in establishing viability and visibility within CHASS and the university community has shown steady progress.

Respectfully submitted,
Walt Wolfram
CHASS EEED Liaison
April, 2010