

Institute for Community Based Research Holds 2nd Annual Recognition & Scholarship Banquet

Cleveland, MS, April, 2008 - On Saturday, May 3, the Institute for Community-Based Research is hosting the Second Annual Recognition and Scholarship Banquet for the Community Development graduate program at Delta State University.

The Banquet's theme Building Better Communities: Research, Scholarship, Partnership provides the backdrop for an evening of recognition and celebration to raise monies for the Institute's student research scholarship fund.

Since 2002, the Institute has worked with over 25 partner organizations and over 25 Community Development graduate students at Delta State University. Funding comes primarily from partners and is limited to their projects. Students, however, often develop independent research projects with community groups. Without financial support, students find it difficult to conduct their research. To this end, the Institute established a scholarship fund for student research.

Eric S. Atchison is the first to use the scholarship to conduct student research. With it, he conducted in-depth interviews and participant observation in two Mississippi Gulf Coast communities. He is now using the research for his master's thesis.

For current and future students like Eric to continue independent research, the scholarship's sustainability is crucial. Last year's Inaugural Recognition & Scholarship Banquet was an overwhelming success! The Institute raised over \$3,000 in donations. As a result, graduate students are able to pursue community research opportunities.

For this year's banquet, a reception begins the evening along with a silent auction. Guests are then served dinner, shortly followed by an address from keynote speaker Dr. Arthur Cosby, Director of the Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University. After the address the recognition and award ceremony begins, followed by celebratory dessert and live entertainment which concludes the evening.

The event is being held at the Hugh-Ellis Walker Alumni-Foundation House at Delta State University. To learn more about how you can make a contribution to the Scholarship, please contact Ryan Betz at 662-846-4784 or at Lloyd1184@aol.com