

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY: NON- ACADEMIC ANNUAL REPORT
Academic Year 2005-06

I. Unit Title: Center for Community and Economic Development

School or College:

Unit Administrator: Deborah Moore

II. Educational Program Learning Outcome Assessment Plan

These are Learner Outcomes identified for the **current** year. Contents of the table should be very brief. Footnotes may be included for items needing explanation or documentation.

<p>Learning Outcome</p> <p><i>What should a graduate in this major know, value, or be able to do at graduation and beyond?</i></p>	<p>Data Collection and Analysis</p> <p><i>What assessment tools and/or methods will you use to determine achievement of the learning outcome? Describe how the data from these tools and/or methods will be collected. Explain the procedure to analyze the data.</i></p>	<p>Results of Evaluation</p> <p><i>What were the findings of the analysis? List any specific recommendations.</i></p>	<p>Use of Evaluation Results</p> <p><i>What changes in curriculum, courses, or procedures were made as a result of the program learning outcome assessment process?</i></p>
<p>Students tutored in grades K-1st will improve their reading at least one performance level based on the performance levels set by their school. Students tutored in grades second through sixth will improve at least one level on their Mississippi Curriculum Test Scores.</p>	<p>Pre/Post Test MCT Scores Test Grades Report Cards</p>	<p>Annual reading gain in reading has increased 1.5-2.0 reading levels for tutored students.</p> <p>Scores from the MCT are still pending.</p>	<p>No changes were made.</p>
<p>AmeriCorps members participating in monthly trainings conducted in collaboration with state agencies, partnering universities, and community and faith-based organizations will have an increase in knowledge gained as a result of the trainings provided by the program.</p>	<p>Member's Self Evaluation (Mid-year and End of year)</p> <p>Training Evaluation (At the end of each workshop)</p>	<p>95% of the Corps members receiving training reported a 75% increase in knowledge gained as a result of the training they attended.</p>	<p>A plan has been put in place by all programs to provide more site specific training and training that deals with homeland security.</p>
<p>Volunteers recruited, supervised and trained through the Center for Community and Economic Development will show an increase in volunteerism.</p>	<p>Sign-In Sheets (At each event)</p> <p>Evaluation Form (Completed after each volunteer experience)</p>	<p>At least 95% of volunteers serving have indicated an increase in volunteerism by the number of times they return to volunteer.</p>	<p>A plan has been put in place to provide more opportunities for volunteer experiences and more training of volunteers.</p>

III. Division/Department Goals for the Current Year

This is a report on progress towards goals for the **current year**. These are operational goals for the unit that are NOT tied directly to student learning outcomes which are reported in the table above. An example might be the implementation of a development campaign in conjunction with the DSU Foundation to raise monies for faculty research and travel.

A. **Goal # 1-CCED will work collaboratively with the communities in the 18-county Mississippi Delta region it serves to develop programs and projects to meet needs of communities.**

1. Institutional Goal which was supported by this goal:

Listed in the Strategic Plan or in the Quality Enhancement Plan. Please note if the unit goal is in support of a Strategic Plan goal (e.g., SP#2) or a Quality Enhancement Plan goal (e.g., QEP#1).

SP#5-The citizens of the region will benefit from increases in university outreach, services, and partnership initiatives.

2. Evaluation Procedure(s):

How did you determine if this goal is met?

Four programs were refunded during the 2005-2006 year. Two smaller grants were received to implement projects to assist Delta Communities.

3. Actual Results of Evaluation:

Explain if the evaluation is not complete

MS Delta Communities will continue to benefit from the Center's programs and projects to meet the need of their communities.

4. Use of Evaluation Results:

How were the results used to improve programs, operation, or services? Indicate if this led to a new goal for the next year.

More partnerships created through collaboratively working with Delta communities.

B. **Goal # 2-CCED will engage residents of the Delta in creating meaningful and sustainable opportunities for community and economic development activities in grassroots communities.**

1. Institutional Goal which was supported by this goal:

SP#5-The citizens of the region will benefit from increases in university outreach, services, and partnership initiatives.

2. Evaluation Procedure(s):

Additional activities/events have been sponsored by the Center to increase community and economic development opportunities in grassroots communities.

3. Actual Results of Evaluation:

Community response has been positive and constructive to help us offer these types of programs again.

4. Use of Evaluation Results:

Center staff has provided additional technical assistance to organizations and communities.

C. Goal # 3- CCED will bring together entities, community leaders, businesses, non-profits, DSU faculty and students to create programs that provide support structures in assisting communities to become self-sustainable.

1. Institutional Goal which was supported by this goal:

SP#5-The citizens of the region will benefit from increases in university outreach, services, and partnership initiatives.

2. Evaluation Procedure(s):

Additional opportunities have been sponsored by the Center to bring together entities, community leaders, businesses, non-profits and DSU faculty and students to provide support structures to assist communities in becoming sustainable.

3. Actual Results of Evaluation:

The organization of these programs that include the above mentioned entities was revisited to better assist communities.

4. Use of Evaluation Results:

Results are used to determine future ways the center can assist to provide support structures to stakeholders and other individuals.

IV. Data and information for department:

The Center for Community and Economic Development was established in August of 1994 to create a proactive stance in the University to address major development issues facing the region. The Delta State University Center for Community and Economic Development pursues excellence in its programs and activities as it seeks to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the Delta. The Center encourages faculty and staff of Delta State University to develop and conduct practical research projects, to provide public service educational programs, and to provide technical assistance to public and private sector organizations. The Center emphasizes on-campus teamwork and collaboration and seeks to develop partnerships with other private and public sector organizations and agencies with vested interests in leadership development and in community and economic development in the Delta region. The Center staff believes in the importance of education and in the power of all individuals, families, groups and institutions to act collectively to meet the needs of their communities.

The Center for Community and Economic Development serves as one of the arms through which Delta State University fulfills its regional mission. It crosses racial, economic and class divisions in strengthening and assisting communities in making their dreams and vision come alive. The Center supports Delta State University and community initiatives through research and by promoting partnerships and networking opportunities with other organizations in the region.

The Mission of the Center for Community and Economic Development is

Building and Empowering Relationships that Strengthen Communities.

The Center's staff represents an array of diverse talents and backgrounds further enhancing its ability to provide effective programming and resources to the Delta. A general overview of the Center's programs is provided below with accomplishments of the 2005-2006 academic year:

America Reads-Mississippi (ARM) is the largest AmeriCorps program in the state of Mississippi and addresses the AmeriCorps issue area of education. The mission is to improve the reading skills of students, encourage public awareness and support of literacy, and help improve the number of certified teachers in Mississippi. Regional partnerships include four (4) universities: Alcorn State University, Delta State University, Jackson State University, and Mississippi State University. In addition, ARM has maintained strong partnering relationships with Barksdale Reading Institute, Early Childhood Institute, Head Start, and Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service, Mississippi Department of Education, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, MS Red Cross, and 57 schools across the state. The DSU region was awarded 50 members who serve in four school districts and eleven school sites. On July 31, 2006, America Reads-Mississippi will have successfully completed its 8th year of operation.

ARM AmeriCorps teams at school sites tutor over 600 students full-time one-on-one and in small groups during the school day, before and after school, over school breaks, and in the summer. Annual statewide gain (on average) in reading has increased 1.5-2.0 reading levels for tutored students. The Economic impact of the America Reads-Mississippi Program in the Delta State University Region is approximately \$881,121.00.

The DSU-ARM program spends \$423,998.40 for living allowances paid to 40 stipend AmeriCorps member at \$833.33 per month for 12 months or \$10,600.00 per year. Over 85% of these members are single parents and this living allowance serves as the only cash income within the household. Health insurance is provided to stipend members at no cost to the members. The DSU-ARM program spends \$54,984.00 for health care insurance (40 members paid at \$114.55 per member for 12 months). Liability insurance is included as a benefit for all AmeriCorps members at a cost of \$9,547.80 per year, 40 stipend members at \$18.25 per month and at \$5.05 per month for 8 district teacher assistants. Lack of adequate childcare and the inability to pay for services have hindered many people from maintaining employment. Stipend members are eligible (based on household income) for childcare voucher payments through the Corporation for National and Community Service. The DSU-ARM region currently has 12 stipend members enrolled providing childcare services to small children totaling at least \$48,960.00 for the program year. Teachers have reported significant improvements in grades, class work, behavior, school attitudes, and attendance as a result of the individualized tutoring.

Member development is an important component of ARM. During the course of the program year members are required to attend monthly trainings in professional skills, personal development skills, and citizenship and civic engagement. Members leave the program with job readiness skills, work experience, and 3-5 year goals. Upon completion of 1700 hours per year, all AmeriCorps members earn \$4,725.00 in the form of an education award voucher. The DSU Region estimates awarding 46 members education awards this program year totaling

\$ 217,350.00. This year, DSU ARM will have a member who has served in the program for 2 years and has completed the requirements to become a certified teacher with plans to be employed by the district. ARM is proud to grow our own teachers. Others were provided the praxis study course to enhance their test taking skills and their ability to pass the test for those having difficulty.

Volunteer recruitment and community involvement is a vital part of the ARM program and is strongly encouraged. During this program year, ARM members in the DSU region alone, have recruited 1,500 volunteers to assist with literacy and school related activities serving 4,000 hours. Based on the value of service from the Economic Report of the President, at \$18.04 per hour, these volunteers gave \$72,162.00 of their time to local schools and their communities, benefiting over 9,000 people. In addition, members recruited 1,200 volunteers to assist with the four major National Service Day projects performing 3,000 hours and accruing \$54,120.00 in service, benefiting 9,000 people and involving 3,000 school students.

The America Reads-Mississippi Program has been continuously awarded funding for continuation. Each year, our program has exceeded the desired performance measures. Biannual stakeholder program evaluations are extremely positive indicating satisfaction and desiring continued partnerships with us. ARM has been named a national “model program” by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the largest program of its kind for three consecutive years, 03-04, 04-05, and 05-06. Plans of improvement to better serve our schools and communities include adding a wellness component, disaster preparedness corps, distance learning courses, and developing an AmeriCorps alumnus.

Delta Reads Partnership (DRP) The Center for Community and Economic Development at Delta State University received a grant in the amount of \$744,000 from the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Services for the 2005-2006 program year for the Delta Reads Partnership. This grant is a part of a three year cycle which allows us to apply for continuation through 2007.

The Delta Reads Partnership program is comprised of fifty-two members who serve in seven Delta school districts: (1) Washington; (2) Sunflower County; (3) North Bolivar; (4) Shaw; (5) Indianola; (6) West Tallahatchie and (7) Hollandale, two Community action Agencies: (1) Sunflower Humphrey County Progress and (2) Bolivar County Community Action, and three child care facilities in: (1) Indianola, (2) Charleston, and (3) Isola. With Corps members’ hard work and dedication, Delta Reads Partnership is well on its way to accomplishing the stated goal of improving the reading level of students grades K-8 by providing one-on-one tutoring to ensure student and school success. By using the Mississippi Curriculum Test (MCT) as an evaluation tool, Delta Reads Partnership will also be assisting schools with meeting and exceeding state standards.

The Delta Reads Partnership Corps members are also involving community volunteers in effective reading tutorial programs and community improvement projects in educational and economically distressed communities in the Mississippi Delta. As of today, the members have recruited, trained and managed a total of 609 non-AmeriCorps volunteers who have provided 2,061 hours of service. These volunteers have assisted AmeriCorps members in organizing and

completing a variety of service projects. Based on the value of service from the Economic Report of the President, at \$18.04 per hour, these volunteers gave \$37,180.44 of their time to local schools and their communities, benefiting over 4,500 people.

The Delta Reads Partnership Corps members have provided 46,347.5 hours of service during the first two quarters of this program year. The members have provided in classroom one-on-one tutoring to 444 students K-8 at least four days per week using multiple tutoring techniques learned through Tutor Certification training provided by the Delta Reads Partnership. Each student receives tutoring at least 20 minutes a day.

Each Corps member receives a \$10,600.00 living allowance and a \$4,725.00 post-service education award which yields approximately \$551,200.00 of expendable income and \$245,700.00 in educational benefits for this program. The total expenditure income given does not include the partial living allowance received by 11 AmeriCorps members who exited the program during the first two quarters.

60 Corps members have served a total of 46,347.5 hours; at an average market value per hour pay of \$18.04 yielding a fair market labor value of \$836,108.90 during the period of September 1, 2005 until March 31, 2006.

The Delta Reads Partnership program has received a grant for \$796,000.00 from the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Services for the 2006-2007 service year. Sixty members will serve local Early Childhood tutorial programs. The 60 AmeriCorps members will receive a \$10,900 living allowance and a post-educational award of \$4,725.00. The program year is scheduled to start September 1, 2006.

The Delta Reads partnership program is economically important to Delta State University because currently \$551,200.00 of expendable income is being brought into the region along with \$245,700.00 in educational benefits that members will use to attend institutions of higher learning. During the service year of 2006-2007 it is anticipated that there will be \$654,000.00 of expendable income and \$283,500.00 in educational benefits brought into the region.

Mississippi Delta Service Corps (MDSC) AmeriCorps program is based at the Center for Community and Economic Development at Delta State University in Cleveland, MS. It is part of a bi-state initiative that falls under the umbrella of the Lower Mississippi Delta Service Corps. Members of the program assist in making communities across the Mississippi Delta safer, healthier, better educated and more united.

The MDSC program received \$232,000.00 in funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service for the 2005-2006 service year. Twenty members were allotted to the program to serve in the area of tutoring, adequate and affordable housing, family service, youth enrichment and community education. Nineteen of the twenty members allotted will complete the program this year. Each will have received a \$10,600.00 living allowance and a post-educational award of \$4,725.00.

The program is economically important to DSU because \$201,400.00 of expendable income is being brought into the region as well as \$89,775.00 of educational award monies that members will use to attend institutions of higher learning. A large majority of our members attend Delta State University.

The members have recruited 1,160 volunteers who have served over 17,084 hours. Based on the value of service from the Economic Report of the President, at \$18.04 per hour, these volunteers gave \$308,195.36 of their time to local organizations and their communities, benefiting over 7,281 people.

The grant application has been submitted for the 2006-2007 program year but notification has not been received that funding has been approved.

Mississippi Delta Service Corps/AmeriCorps*VISTA (VISTA) The Center for Community and Economic Development at Delta State University received a grant in the amount of \$541,639.00 from the Corporation for National & Community Service for the 2005 – 2006 program year to continue the Mississippi Delta Service Corps (MDSC)/AmeriCorps*VISTA Program.

The MDSC/AmeriCorps*VISTA Program is comprised of thirty VISTA members who serve with programs to create and expand opportunities for low-income individuals in the following areas: (1) financial asset development; (2) welfare to work; (3) public health; and (4) children and youth. Through their service in these four focus areas, low-income communities will achieve long-lasting antipoverty objectives, partnerships will be promoted between public and private sectors, volunteers will be recruited and trained, resources will be mobilized to support the project, and communities will have the capacity to be self-sustainable.

Each VISTA member receives a \$9,702.00 subsistence allowance and the choice of a \$4,725.00 education award or a \$1,200.00 year end stipend which yields approximately \$397,560.00 (This number is based on 20 members choosing the education award and 10 choosing the stipend) of expendable income for this region. VISTA members are assigned to 16 partnering organizations in 7 counties in the Mississippi Delta.

For the 2005-2006 service year, 2,943 community members have been recruited and trained to assist with the VISTA projects and have served a total of 23,053.25 hours. Based on the value of service from the Economic Report of the President, at \$18.04 per hour, these volunteers gave \$415,880.63 of their time to local communities, benefiting over 6,000 people. VISTA members solicited over \$87,224.89.00 dollars of in-kind and donated goods and serves this service year.

The Institute for Community-Based Research (ICBR) engages in projects aimed at informing development efforts in the Mississippi Delta and beyond. The Institute works with nonprofit organizations and cooperatives, government agencies, and educational institutions to assist in the design, implementation, and analysis of research in pursuit of livelihood security and improved quality of life. Substantive areas of focus include: 1) underemployment, persistent poverty and workforce development, 2) environment, health and food security, and 3) organizing cooperative alternatives. A collaborative partnership between the Division of Social Sciences and Center for

Community and Economic Development at Delta State University, the Institute provides an avenue through which DSU students, especially those pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Community Development, are able to collaborate with faculty and communities to engage in timely and meaningful research.

The Delta Rural Poll combines a periodic telephone survey and qualitative interviews of residents of eleven counties in northwestern Mississippi (Bolivar, Coahoma, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, and Washington). The Delta Rural Poll is administered by the faculty associates at the Center for Community and Economic Development at Delta State University with assistance from the DSU Division of Social Sciences. The 2005 survey was conducted by the Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University.

Other Accomplishments

Deborah Moore and Linda Stringfellow wrote the reapplication for the Mississippi Delta Service Corps/AmeriCorps*VISTA program. The program was refunded for the 2006-2007 program year in the amount of \$541,639.00.

Deborah Moore and Showen Herring wrote the reapplication for the Delta Reads Partnership. The program was refunded for the 2006-2007 program year in the amount of \$796,000.00.

A grant has been submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture for Bi-State Back Office Support Groups. This project is a partnership between Delta State University's Center for Community and Economic Development and Louisiana State University's Delta Regional Development Center in Oakgrove, Louisiana. The purpose of this project is to provide technical assistance to emerging businesses in the area of: managing finances, taxes, marketing and other best management practices.

A grant has been submitted in partnership with the DSU's School of Nursing to the United States Department of Health and Human Services for a Healthy Behavior in Women Project that involves working with 50 females in Washington and Bolivar County to teach healthy lifestyle choices.

A grant has been submitted in partnership with Mississippi Valley State University to the United States Department of Labor for a Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals (JOLI) program. This project involves working with low-income and TANF individuals providing them with skills needed to become employable or open their own business.

Share with Care Project/Vitamin Relief Project was held January 2006- AmeriCorps members and staff collected items needed by victims of Hurricane Katrina and transported those items to the coast. Members in the local area assisted with the community action agencies and American Red Cross efforts after the disaster.

Technology Forum was held February 2006-The forum allowed participants the opportunity to share their respective thoughts and experiences about technology and innovation with other local business professionals to gain collective ideas and strategies about how to solve some of the greatest challenges facing the Delta today. Partners included: Mississippi Delta Technology Alliance and Mississippi Technology Council.

Mayor's Conference was held March 2006-Delta area mayors were invited to the Center to learn about services and resources available to their communities and to make their needs known.

Workforce Development Training-A twelve week course was offered to teach participants QuickBooks, Resume Writing, Office Skills, Developing a Business Plan and Business Networks. Partners include: Center for Business and Entrepreneurial Research, DSU Small Business Development Center and South Delta Planning and Development District

Delta Business Entrepreneurial Symposium was held March 2006-The symposium featured information on entrepreneurship opportunities in the Delta, opportunities for funding, and programs designed to assist existing and emerging entrepreneurs. Partners included: DSU College of Business, Center for Business and Entrepreneurial Research, DSU Small Business Development Center and Mississippi Micro Enterprise and Assistance Network.

Delta Health and Wellness Day-is an annual event that allows Deltans to receive free health screenings and information about their health. Over 800 people attended the November 2005 event. The event was expanded to include a Kids Corner for elementary school students and "Walk-a-Mile in My Shoes" to provide community members with illnesses and diseases the opportunity to share their life experiences while living with their illness or disease.

Multiple Sclerosis Walk was held in April 2006- an annual event in partnership with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. This walk is the only walk in the Delta. All surrounding communities participated to help raise funds for the fight against multiple sclerosis. Over 300 walkers raised over \$12,300.00.

Institute for Community Based Research-has worked with people and organizations on the coast to provide need assessments and additional support. Graduate students in the Master of Community Development program work through the institute to facilitate public forums on topics such as leadership, health, heritage and tourism to be used for publication, presentations, and as documentation needed to seek funding for programs.

V. Personnel:

Noteworthy activities and accomplishments:

Deborah Moore

Deborah Moore was recognized for her work with communities and organizations by IHL as DSU's employee for Black History Month.

Deborah Moore received the "Ladies of Elegance Citizen Award" in December 2005 for outstanding leadership, devotion and dedicated service rendered to the community and surrounding area.

John Green

"Documenting the Experiences, Needs and Recommendations of Service Providers in the Wake of Disaster." Collaborative research project between the Institute for Community-Based Research at Delta State University, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Southeastern Louisiana University, and the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan. Project Director: John J. Green at DSU. (No project specific funding. In-kind support is being provided.)

"Expanding Marketing Opportunities for Minority and Limited Resource Farmers in Louisiana and Mississippi." Funded by the Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program. Project Director: Anna M. Kleiner at Southeastern Louisiana University. ICBR/DSU Subcontract: \$2,604.

"Local Evaluation of the Healthy Start Initiative." Delta Health Partners, Tougaloo College and Delta Area Health Education Center. Local Evaluation Director: John J. Green at DSU. ICBR/DSU Subcontract: \$10,000.

"Participant Assessment of the Communities of Opportunity Initiative." Foundation for the Mid South. Participant Evaluation Director: John J. Green at DSU. ICBR/DSU Contract: \$4,500.

"Entrepreneurial Social Infrastructure and Community Change: Assessment and Evaluation of Projects Funded by the Dreyfus Health Foundation in the Mississippi Delta." Dreyfus Health Foundation. Participant Evaluation Director: John J. Green at DSU. ICBR/DSU Contract: \$6,250.

"Public Transportation Assessment in Clarksdale, Mississippi." Dreyfus Health Foundation. Research Project Director: John J. Green at DSU. ICBR/DSU Contract: \$6,500.

"Understanding the Needs and Interests of Limited Resource and Minority Farmers and Farm workers." This consists of two on-going multi-year evaluation projects with the Rural Coalition funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Risk Management Agency. ICBR/DSU Subcontract is paid as a per day consulting fee.

"Local Evaluation for Delta Reads Partnership." Center for Community and Economic Development, Delta State University. ICBR Subcontract: \$2,500.

"Local Evaluation for Healthy Community Program." Delta State University. ICBR Subcontract: \$2,500.

Publications and Reports

Publications Submitted for Review

Arbuckle, J., Corinne Valdivia, Andrew Raedeke, John J. Green and J. Sanford Rikoon. "The Non-Operator Landowner and Agroforestry: An Analysis of Factors Associated with Interest in Agroforestry Practices." Submitted for Peer Review to *Agroforestry Systems*.

Green, John J. "Review of *Famine That Kills: Darfur, Sudan* by Alex de Waal." Submitted for Review to *Rural Sociology*.

Green, John J., Duane A. Gill and Anna M. Kleiner. "From Vulnerability to Resiliency: Using Community-Based Research to Assess Impacts and Responses to Disaster." Submitted for Peer Review to *Rural Realities*.

Green, John J. and Albert B. Nylander III. "A Community-Based Framework for Understanding Problems and Exploring Alternatives: Connecting Underemployment, Poverty and Access to Health Care in the Mississippi Delta." Submitted for Peer Review to *Journal of the Community Development Society*.

Lovell, Donielle, Christy Montesi, Myrtis Tabb and John J. Green. "Social Networks and Community Involvement: Assessment of a Leadership Development Program in the Mississippi Delta." Submitted for Peer Review to *Journal of Applied Sociology*.

Nylander, Albert B. III, Ralph Brown, Michael Stovall and John J. Green. "Structural Foundations of Community Power: Network Differences in Black and White Leadership Structures Over Time in a Rural Mississippi Delta Community." Submitted for Peer Review to *Rural Sociology*.

Reports

Leonard, Sarah and John J. Green. 2006. "Participant Evaluation of Dreyfus Health Foundation Projects in the Mississippi Delta." Working Paper for the Problem Solving for Better Health Program of the Dreyfus Health Foundation.

Green, John J. 2005. "Community Building and the Development Process: A Synthesis Based on Research and Practice." Working Paper for the Communities of Opportunity Initiative of the Foundation for the Mid South.

Green, John and Eleanor Green. 2005. "Creating the Future: The CBO/USDA Partnership Second Annual USDA Partners Meeting." Narrative Report to the Rural Coalition and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

Green, John J. and Sarah Leonard. 2005. "Participant Assessment of the Communities of Opportunity Initiative." Working Paper for the Communities of Opportunity Initiative of the Foundation for the Mid South.

Student Thesis/Practicum Reports

- Edwards, Alkie. 2005. Practicum. *Improving Quality of Life and Livelihood Security Through Collaborative Partnerships: Case Studies of the Tri-County Workforce Alliance and the Dreyfus Health Foundation*. Practicum Report, Master of Science in Community Development Program, Division of Social Sciences at Delta State University.
- Holt, Todd. 2005. *Workforce Perceptions: Employers' Assessment of the Workforce in a Mississippi Delta County*. Thesis, Master of Science in Community Development Program, Division of Social Sciences at Delta State University.
- Kimport, Rebecca. 2005. *Perceptions of Education in Two Mississippi Delta Communities*. Thesis, Master of Science in Community Development Program, Division of Social Sciences at Delta State University.
- Leonard, Sarah. 2006. *Delta Women Leaders*. Thesis, Master of Science in Community Development Program, Division of Social Sciences at Delta State University.
- Rice, Catherine. 2005. Thesis. 2005. *Perceptions of Education in the Mississippi Delta*. Thesis, Master of Science in Community Development Program, Division of Social Sciences at Delta State University.

Presentations

- Green, John J., Albert B. Nylander III, Brent Hales, Alan Barton and Sallie Simmons. "Use of Community Surveys and Focus Groups to Inform Development Programs and Engage Students in Hands-On Learning." To be Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Community Development Society. St. Louis, MO. June 2006.
- Kleiner, Anna M. and John J. Green. "Rolling the Dice on Post-Katrina Redevelopment: Assessing the Impacts and Opportunities for Residents of East Biloxi, Mississippi." To be Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Community Development Society. St. Louis, MO. June 2006.
- Green, John J. and Anna M. Kleiner. 2006. "The Livelihoods Framework for Moving from Vulnerability to Resiliency." Remarks for the panel presentation entitled "Small Cities and Rural Communities: The Unique Challenges of Disaster Mitigation and Recovery" at Restoration 2006: Community and Economic Recovery after a Disaster. New Orleans, LA. May 2006.
- Green, John J., Anna M. Kleiner, Albert B. Nylander III, Monica Rosas and Sarah Leonard. 2006. "Disaster Impacts, Recovery and Redevelopment: Assessment for Planning and Advocacy." Poster Presented at the Second Annual DSU Faculty Research and Scholarship Symposium.

- McMillen, Edith and John J. Green. 2006. "Food, Nutrition and Health: Exploratory Analysis in the Mississippi Delta." Poster Presented at the Second Annual DSU Faculty Research and Scholarship Symposium.
- Nylander, Albert B. III, Sallie Simmons and John J. Green. 2006. "School Consolidation on the Socio-Cultural Fault Line: Attitudes Toward Education in a Mississippi Delta Town." Poster Presented at the Second Annual DSU Faculty Research and Scholarship Symposium.
- Kleiner, Anna M., John J. Green, Albert B. Nylander III and Monica Rosas. 2006. "A Community Study of Disaster Impacts and Redevelopment Issues Facing East Biloxi, Mississippi." Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, LA.
- Green, John J. 2005. "Learning by Doing: Teaching Research Methods through Community-Based Projects in the Mississippi Delta." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society. Tampa, FL.
- Green, John J. 2005. "Community Development and Transportation in the Mississippi Delta: A Summary Report on Research to Inform Planning." Presented at the Transportation Issues in Clarksdale and the Greater Mississippi Delta Meeting. Clarksdale, MS.
- Green, John J. and Anna M. Kleiner. 2005. "Redevelopment After the Disaster." Presented at Hurricane Impacted Rural Communities: A Land-Grant System Summit. Southern Rural Development Center, Rural Sociological Society, Farm Foundation and the US Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Service. Nashville, TN.
- Green, John J. and Anna M. Kleiner. 2005. "Community-Based Research: A Workshop to Diversify Voices." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, PA.
- Green, John J. and Albert B. Nylander III. 2005. "Access to Care and Perceived Health Status: A Multi-Method Study from the Mississippi Delta." Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association. Atlanta, GA.
- Green, John J. and Lorette Picciano. 2005. "An Investigation of Social Labels Applied to Underserved Farmers." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society. Tampa, FL.

Service Through Events Organized/Participated In

- Co-organizer/Host. "Community Development in Practice Workshop and Celebration." Division of Social Sciences, Delta State University. Cleveland, MS. April 2006.
- Local Host. "Success Measures for Participatory Evaluation." NeighborWorks, Foundation for the Mid South, and the Center for Community and Economic Development at Delta State University. Cleveland, MS. April 2006.

Participant. "National Healthy Start Association's Annual Meeting." Washington, DC. March 2006.

Proposal Evaluator. U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development - Small Business Innovation Research Program. Washington, DC. February 2006.

Invited Participant. "Hurricane Impacted Rural Communities: A Land-Grant System Summit." Southern Rural Development Center, Rural Sociological Society, Farm Foundation and the US Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Service. Nashville, TN. December 2005.

Invited Participant. "Hurricane Katrina Summit." Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University. November 2005.

Facilitator. Dreyfus Health Foundation's Problem Solving for Better Health. Clarksdale, MS. October 2005.

Co-Organizer. "Informing Redevelopment After Hurricane Katrina." Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA. October 2005.

Session Co-Organizer and Presenter. "Community-Based Research: A Workshop to Diversify Voices." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, PA. August 2005.

Documenter. U.S. Department of Agriculture Annual Partners Meeting. In Collaboration with the Rural Coalition. August 2005. Washington, DC.

Professional Organizations and Service

Organizational Membership

Rural Sociological Society
American Sociological Association
Community Development Society
Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association
Pi Gamma Mu Social Sciences Honors Society

Organizational Service

Chair. Rural Poverty Research Interest Group. Rural Sociological Society. 2005-2006.

Co-Chair. Sociology of Agriculture Research Interest Group. Rural Sociological Society. 2005-2006.

At-Large Committee Member. Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association. 2004-2007.

Student Paper Competition Review Committee. Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association. 2006.

Reviewer. *Agriculture and Human Values*. Journal of the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society.

Reviewer. *Southern Rural Sociology*. Journal of the Southern Rural Sociological Society.

Reviewer. *Rural Realities*. A Journal of the Rural Sociological Society.

Awards and Recognition-John Green

Awardee, Delta State University Alumni Foundation Faculty Prize for Excellence in Service. 2006.

Nominee, Delta State University Alumni Foundation Faculty Prize for Excellence in Research. 2006.

Advisory Board Member of the Year, AmeriCorps*Volunteers in Service to America. Center for Community and Economic Development at Delta State University

Alan Barton

Alan Barton. *The 2005 Delta Rural Poll Annual Survey: Methods and Characteristics of the Sample*. Research Paper No. 05-01, Center for Community and Economic Development, Delta State University, Cleveland, MS. August, 2005.

Alan Barton. *Attitudes and Perceptions of Heritage Tourism in the Mississippi Delta*. Policy Brief No. 06-01, Center for Community and Economic Development. Delta State University, Cleveland, MS. March, 2006.

Alan Barton. *Attitudes About Heritage Tourism in the Mississippi Delta: A Policy Report from the 2005 Delta Rural Poll*. Policy Paper No. 05-02, Center for Community and Economic Development. Delta State University, Cleveland, MS. December, 2005.

Alan Barton. *Technology Use in the Mississippi Delta: A Summary Report from the 2003 Delta Rural Poll*, with Roshun N. Williams. Policy Paper No. 05-01, Center for Community and Economic Development. Delta State University, Cleveland, MS. July, 2005.

Alan Barton. "Use of Community Surveys and Focus Groups to Inform Development Programs and Engage Students in Hands-On Learning," Panel presentation at the 2006 Community Development Society Annual International Conference, St. Louis, MO, June 25–28, 2006.

Alan Barton and Jolana Gibbs. "Authenticity is in the Eyes of the Beholder: Using Local Perceptions to Plan for Natural Heritage Tourism in the Mississippi Delta," Paper presented at the 12th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Vancouver, BC, Canada, June 3–8, 2006.

Brent Hales and Alan Barton. "Assessing the Digital Divide in the Mississippi Delta," Paper presented at the 37th Annual Meeting of the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association, Oxford, MS, February 23–24, 2006.

Alan Barton. "How Rural Polls Can Guide Extension Programming, Community Dialogue and Policymaking: Examples From Three States," Panel presentation at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals, San Antonio, TX, February 13–16, 2006.

Alan Barton. "Community Stability, Intent to Migrate and Sustainable Development in the Mississippi Delta," Paper presented at the 36th Annual Meeting of the Southern Demographic Association, Oxford, MS, November 3–5, 2005.

Alan Barton and Jolana Gibbs. "Local Attitudes and Perceptions of Heritage Tourism in the Mississippi Delta," Paper presented at the 31st Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association, Atlanta, GA, October 26–29, 2005.

Alan Barton. "Class, Race and Technology Use in the Mississippi Delta: Characteristics and Policy Implications," Paper presented at the 68th Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Tampa, FL, August 10–13, 2005.

New position(s) requested, with justification:

Recommended change of status

(such as promotion/tenure/change in responsibilities):

Beronica Wilder was hired as Program Associate for Member Services with AmeriCorps*VISTA in September 2005.

Veronica Jenkins was hired as Program Associate for Field Services with AmeriCorps*VISTA in September 2005.

Samona Gary was hired as Program Associate for Field Services with Delta Reads Partnership in December 2005.

VI. Degree Program Addition/Deletions and/or Major Curriculum Changes: N/A

Changes made in the past year

Recommended changes for the coming year(s)

VII. Division/Department Goals for Coming Year

This is a statement of goals for the **coming year**. These are operational goals for the unit that are NOT tied directly to student learning outcomes.

A. Goal # 1-To obtain sustained support for outreach programs in community development that is already underway in the Mississippi Delta region and to sustain community and economic development efforts with additional Delta communities.

1. Institutional Goal(s) supported by this goal:

Listed in the Strategic Plan or in the Quality Enhancement Plan. Please note if the unit goal is in support of a Strategic Plan goal (e.g., SP#2) or a Quality Enhancement Plan goal (e.g., QEP#1).

SP#4-Friends of Delta State University along with the general public, will become more aware and more supportive of the institution.

2. Expected Results:

A stable, substantial financial base, and long-range funding plan.

Partnership with other University organizations to obtain funding for various educational and research initiatives to strengthen public and private sector organizations

3. Evaluation Procedure(s):

How will you determine if this goal is met?)

Long-term sustainability for programs at the Center.

4. Use of Evaluation Results:

How will the results be used to improve programs, operation, or services?

As a result of a stable sustainable financial base programs will become sustained and services can be enhanced.

B. Goal # 2-To develop marketing strategies that will increase the awareness and value of the Center to the community.

1. Institutional Goal(s) supported by this goal:

SP#4-Friends of Delta State University along with the general public, will become more aware and more supportive of the institution.

2. Expected Results:

To increase the visibility of the Center and its programs

3. Evaluation Procedure(s):

Distribution of portfolios, newsletters, brochures, press releases

4. Use of Evaluation Results:

Through making the public more aware of the Center and its programs, it is hoped that the Center will be able to provide assistance to the 18-counties in the MS Delta.

C. Goal # 3 – To revitalize communities by providing effective and efficient programs in community service for youth, mentors, emerging leaders, local government and non-profit organizations.

1. Institutional Goal(s) supported by this goal:

SP#5-The citizens of the region will benefit from increases in university outreach, service, and partnership initiatives.

2. Expected Results:

To enable Center staff, its Faculty Associates and graduate students to provide technical assistance on community and economic development projects in Delta communities.

3. Evaluation Procedure(s):

Communities will be revitalized as a result of programs developed through the assistance of the Center.

4. Use of Evaluation Results:

Results of the evaluation will be used to determine if the Center is adequately providing effective and efficient programs to meet community needs.

D. Goal #4-To develop leadership and professional competences that empower staff and local leaders to build local and regional networks to create and manage change in their communities.

1. Institutional Goal(s) supported by this goal:

SP#5-The citizens of the region will benefit from increases in university outreach, service, and partnership initiatives.

2. Expected Results:

To provide educational programs and learning communities that create efficient and effective leadership and management practices in the public sector.

3. Evaluation Procedure(s):

A training calendar will be developed for leadership skills development for staff and local leaders.

4. Use of Evaluation Results:

Results will be used to determine adequate training topics for staff and local leaders.

E. Goal #5-To conduct action research on critical issues in the Delta to develop practical and workable policies that under gird community and economic development programs in the 18-county region.

1. Institutional Goal(s) supported by this goal:

SP#5-The citizens of the region will benefit from increases in university outreach, service, and partnership initiatives.

2. Expected Results:

To influence policy and programmatic initiatives in cross-cultural and diverse socioeconomic settings

3. Evaluation Procedure(s):

Participatory research will be used to determine the progress of meeting the stated goal.

4. Use of Evaluation Results:

Results of the evaluation will be used to determine topics for future action research and to provide the Center with data needed for proposals and funding opportunities.

F. Goal #6-To build partnerships with communities, regional organizations, community colleges, the private sector and other institutions of higher education that will create a sense of community, which is consistent with the Center's Mission.

1. Institutional Goal(s) supported by this goal:

SP#5-The citizens of the region will benefit from increases in university outreach, service, and partnership initiatives.

2. Expected Results:

To increase opportunities for program development.
To ensure organization and program sustainability.

3. Evaluation Procedure(s):

Partners will complete an evaluation of the Center and its work.

4. Use of Evaluation Results:

Results will be used to establish future partnerships or to enhance current partnerships.

G. Goal #7-To deliver services and programs that maintain the identity of individuals, promote inclusion and foster appreciation among all members of the University and the Delta Region.

1. Institutional Goal(s) supported by this goal:

SP#5-The citizens of the region will benefit from increases in university outreach, service, and partnership initiatives.

2. Expected Results:

To increase the number of staff and program participants from diverse backgrounds.

3. Evaluation Procedure(s):

A demographic survey of staff and participants
Recruiting techniques

4. Use of Evaluation Results:

Results of the survey will be used to determine a strategic plan for recruitment of a more diverse participants and staff.