

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY: NON-ACADEMIC ANNUAL REPORT
Academic Year 2006-07

I. Unit Title: Center for Community and Economic Development

Division or School/College:

Unit Administrator: Deborah G. Moore



Building and Empowering Relationships that Strengthen Communities.

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. Not all units have direct student impact. Those that do should have clear learning outcomes developed. Those with no student contact may indicate that this section is not applicable.)*

A. Learning Outcome <i>What should a student impacted by this program / unit / function know, value, or be able to do at graduation and beyond?</i>	B. Data Collection and Analysis <i>1. What assessment tools and/or methods will you use to determine achievement of the learning outcome? 2. Describe how the data from these tools and/or methods will be/have been collected. 3. Explain the procedure to analyze the data.</i>	C. Results of Evaluation <i>What were the findings of the analysis?</i>	D. Use of Evaluation Results <i>1. List any specific recommendations. 2. Describe changes in curriculum, courses, or procedures that are proposed or were made/ are being made as a result of the program learning outcome assessment process.</i>
Students tutored in PreK-8 grade will improve their reading at least one performance level based on the performance levels set by their school.	Pre/Post Test Test grades Report Cards DIBELS Assessment	Annual reading gain in reading has increased 1.5-2.0 reading levels for tutored students. PreK students are being assessed through the DIBELS assessment and final assessments will be completed and analyzed in July.	No changes were made
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.	Member's Self Evaluation (Mid-year and End of year) Training Evaluation (At the end of each workshop)	95% of the Corps members receiving training reported a 75% increase in knowledge gained as a result of the training they attended.	Each program has developed a training curriculum for 2007-2008 that will provide members with more site specific training.

Volunteers recruited, supervised and trained through the Center for Community and Economic Development will show an increase in volunteerism.	Sign-In Sheets (At each event) Evaluation Form (Completed after each volunteer experience)	At least 95% of volunteers serving have indicated an increase in volunteerism by the number of times they return to volunteer.	A plan has been put in place to provide more opportunities for volunteer experiences and more training of volunteers. Recruiting training and retaining volunteers has been added to all program curriculums for the 2006-2007 program year.
Organizations will receive training, technical assistance and a sub-grant award for capacity building. As a result of this, organizations will report a 50% increase in capacity.	Pre-needs assessment Post needs assessment	The pre-assessment has been administered. The post assessment will be administered in September 2007.	N/A
One hundred low-income, at-risk females in Bolivar County will report they are able to make better lifestyle choices as a result of the breast health education project.	Pre assessment Post assessment	The pre assessment is administered as workshops are presented. One hundred of the females receiving the educational training are tracked through the program to determine the program's impact. The research will continue through November 2007 and a report will be completed and ready for the funding agency and DSU in December 2007.	N/A

III. Division/Department/Unit 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 personnel development plan to enhance the skills of the staff in a unit. For each of the goals, be specific about what you actually did or intended to do with each initiative.)*

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 which was 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. Evaluation Procedure(s):

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. Actual Results of Evaluation:

How will you determine if this goal is met?)

The four AmeriCorps programs and the Institute for Community Based Research established a donor campaign. So far approximately \$500.00 has been secured through this effort. CCED staff will work with advisory boards to develop additional means for funding. \$7,500.00 was secured through a private foundation. CCED is in the process of forming a partnership with the University of Michigan to obtain resources from various educational and research initiatives.

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 which was 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. Evaluation Procedure(s):

To increase the visibility of the Center and its programs through the webpage, newsletters, portfolios and brochures.

3. Actual Results of Evaluation:

Distribution of portfolios, newsletters, brochures, press releases

4. Use of Evaluation Results:

Through making the public more aware of the Center and its programs, the Center has been able to provide assistance to a wider variety of communities 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) which was supported by this goal:

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

2. Evaluation Procedure (s):

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

3. Actual Results of Evaluation:

Communities are revitalized as a result of programs developed through the assistance of the Center. Through the MDLEY program and the VISTA program organizations are receiving capacity building assistance. Through partnerships established as a result of the other three AmeriCorps programs, communities and organizations are receiving the benefit of having direct service AmeriCorps members serve with their organizations. The BEEP program provides breast health education to residents in Bolivar County through partnerships with faith-based and community organizations. The Institute for Community Based Research and the Delta Rural Poll involves communities in action based and participatory research to determine the most viable solution to problems in their communities.

4. Use of Evaluation Results:

Based on assessments of the programs provided through the Institute for Community Based Research, the programs at the Center are 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 which was supported by this goal:

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

2. Evaluation Procedures:

Educational programs are provided to learning communities that create efficient and effective leadership and management practices in the public sector. A partnership has been established with area Mayors and elected officials to provide training in leadership and management practices. A partnership has also been established with the Mississippi Center for Non Profits to provide training and technical assistance to a cohort of community and faith based organizations. These trainings have now been made available to Cleveland residents and the surrounding communities.

3. Actual Results of Evaluation

As a result of the training workshops, leaders of communities report they are better equipped in understanding their roles as leaders and are better able to manage operations in their communities.

4. Use of Evaluation Results:

Results from workshop evaluations are 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 which was supported by this goal:

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

2. Evaluation Procedure (s):

Policy and programmatic initiatives are created in cross-cultural and diverse socioeconomic settings.

3. Actual Results of Evaluation

Participatory research is used to determine the progress of meeting the stated goal. The results of the Delta Rural Poll are used to develop policies.

4. Use of Evaluation Results:

Results of the evaluation are 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 which was supported by this goal:

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

2. Evaluation Procedure (s):

Increased opportunities for program development.

Organizations and program sustainability.

3. Actual Results of Evaluation:

Partners complete an evaluation of the Center and its work.

4. Use of Evaluation Results:

Results from evaluations are 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 which was supported by this goal:

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

2. Evaluation Procedure (s)

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

3. Actual Results of Evaluation:

A determination of the demographic makeup of staff and participants

4. Use of Evaluation Results:

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

IV. Data and information for department: *(include narrative of programmatic scope; data)*

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 Center brings businesses, citizens, educational leaders, public official, institutions of higher learning, and faculty together to develop innovative solutions to problems. Delta State University, through the Center, is showing that institutions of higher learning can be a driving force in helping to support community and economic development.

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 2006-2007 academic year:

America Reads-Mississippi (ARM) is the largest AmeriCorps program in the state of Mississippi and addresses the AmeriCorps 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, Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service, Mississippi Department of Education, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, MS Red Cross, and 59 schools across the state. The DSU region was awarded 50 members who serve in four school districts and thirteen school sites. On July 31, 2007, America Reads-Mississippi will have successfully completed its 9th 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 1.5-2.5 reading levels for tutored students.

The DSU-ARM program spends \$381,500.00 for living allowances paid to 35 stipend AmeriCorps members at \$903.33 per month for 12 months or \$10,900.00 per year. Over 80% 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 \$46,305.00 for health care insurance (35 members paid at \$110.25 per member for 12 months). Liability insurance is included as a benefit for all AmeriCorps members at a cost of \$8,452.00 per year, 35 stipend members at \$18.25 per month and at \$5.05 per month for 13 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 18 stipend members enrolled providing childcare services to small children 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 established long-term 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. ARM is proud to grow our own teachers. The DSU Region has 5 members who have served in the program for 2 years and has completed the requirements to become a certified teacher and 6 members that have become teacher assistants with plans to be employed by the district.

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 over 1,500 volunteers to assist with literacy and school related activities serving over 4,000 hours. In addition, members recruited 1,200 volunteers to assist with the four major National Service Day projects 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. ARM continues to be recognized as a national “model program” by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the largest program of its kind. To better serve our schools and communities, ARM has included a wellness component and disaster preparedness training to the member curriculum. In addition, ARM plans to incorporate distance learning courses and the development of an AmeriCorps alumnus.

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 \$443,553.00 from the Corporation for National & Community Service for the 2006 – 2007 program year to continue the Mississippi Delta Service Corps (MDSC)/AmeriCorps*VISTA Program.

The MDSC/AmeriCorps*VISTA Program is comprised of thirty full-time VISTA members and four full-time Summer Associates 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 was increased to a \$9,996.00 subsistence allowance in September 2006; the choice of a \$4,725.00 education award (\$1,000.00 for Summer Associates) or a \$1,200.00 year end stipend which yields approximately \$412,103.12 (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 24 partnering organizations in 9 counties in the Mississippi Delta.

For the 2006-2007 service year, 4,125 community members have been recruited and trained to assist with the VISTA projects and have served a total of 26,365.25 hours. Based on the value of service from the Economic Report of the President, at \$18.04 per hour,

these volunteers gave \$475,629.11 of their time to local communities, benefiting over 9,000 people. VISTA members solicited over \$177,617.14 dollars of in-kind and donated goods and services this service year.

Delta Reads Partnership (DRP) The Center for Community and Economic Development at Delta State University received a grant in the amount of \$796,000.00 from the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Services for the 2006-2007 program year for the Delta Reads Partnership.

The Delta Reads Partnership program is comprised of 24 members who serve in four Delta school districts: (1)Coahoma County Schools; (2)Sunflower County Schools; (3)Leflore County Schools; (4)Greenwood City Schools, one Community Action Agency: (1)Bolivar County Community Action, and one childcare facility in 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 pre K-8 grade by providing one-on-one tutoring to ensure student and school success. By using the DIBELS Assessment 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 149 non-AmeriCorps volunteers who have provided 369 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 \$6,656.76 of their time to local schools and their communities, benefiting over 1,000 people.

The Delta Reads Partnership Corps members have provided 23,085.25 hours of service during the first two quarters of this program year. The members have provided in classroom one-on-one tutoring to 879 students PreK-8 grade 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 \$10,900.00 living allowance and a \$4,725.00 post-service education award which yields approximately \$261,000.00 of expendable income and \$113,400.00 in educational benefits for this program. The total expenditure income given does not include the living allowances received by 2 AmeriCorps members who exited the program during the first two quarters.

24 Corps members have served a total of 23,085.25 hours; at an average market value per hour pay of \$18.04 yielding a fair market labor value of \$416,457.91 during the period of September 1, 2006 until March 31, 2007.

The Delta Reads partnership program is economically important to Delta State University because currently \$261,000.00 of expendable income is being brought into the region alone with \$113,400.00 in educational benefits that members will be used to attend institutions of higher learning. The Delta Reads Partnership program will not be refunded for the 2007-2008 program year.

Mississippi Delta Leaders Empowering Youth (MDLEY) The Center for Community and Economic Development was awarded funding through the Communities Empowering Youth Program under the Department of Health and Human Services' Compassion Capitol Fund in September of 2006. However, the MDLEY Program, a partnership between the Delta State University Center for Community and Economic Development, the Mississippi Center for Nonprofits, and the Institute for Community Based Research, began their program in late January 2007. MDLEY is a \$300,000 grant/year program with the opportunity of a 3-year funding cycle pending reapplication.

The MDLEY Program partners with 17 faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) from the 18-county Mississippi Delta who service disadvantaged youth between the ages of 12-21 in at least one of three critical social areas: gang activity, youth violence, and child abuse/neglect. MDLEY will serve to improve the quality of service of the FBCO partners working as a cohort in an academy organization through high impact capacity building training, technical assistance, and sub-grant award. Also, the program will serve to improve the knowledge, skills and performance levels of the FBCOs in the four areas of leadership development, organization development, program development, and community engagement.

MDLEY's main goal is to help the partnering FBCOs build capacity. Free to MDLEY participants, various training sessions, organized through the MS Center for Nonprofits, are scheduled throughout the year and across the state. Organizations will have the opportunity to train key staff on a plethora of topics encompassing the four development areas listed above. Also, each organization will receive 20 hours of free one-on-one on-site consultation with a professional consultant assigned specifically to their organization. Lastly, each FBCO partner will receive up to \$8,000 in a capacity-building sub-grant award.

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 \$240,000.00 in funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service for the 2006-2007 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. Eighteen of the twenty members allotted will complete the program this year. Each will have received a \$10,900.00 living allowance and a post-educational award of \$4,725.00.

The program is economically important to DSU because \$196,200 of expendable income is being brought into the region as well as \$85,050.00 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 1092 volunteers who have served over 13,068 hours. Based on the value of service from the Economic Report of the President, at \$18.04 per hour, these volunteers gave \$235,746.72 of their time to local organizations and their communities, benefiting over 6,200 people.

The grant application has been submitted and awarded for the 2007-2008 program year. MDSC has been awarded 23 members. The actual budget has not yet been approved.

Institute for Community Based Research (ICBR): The faculty and staff working through the Institute have continued and expanded upon several previous projects, and have enhanced this work through new endeavors. This summary provides information on many of the Institute's activities and accomplishments.

Restructuring

One of the most noteworthy undertakings of the Institute over the past year has been strategic restructuring. Efforts are underway to create two units within the Institute for Community-Based Research. One unit is to focus on organizational and community capacity development through resource assessment, education/training and technical assistance. The second unit will focus on program evaluation. Among other projects, the latter unit will include an annual survey of CCED partner organizations and members with a focus on community and civic engagement. An exciting development in this regard is that Dr. Paulette Meikle, Assistant Professor of Community Development and Sociology, will be playing a leadership role in the Institute.

Personnel

Over the course of the past year, the Institute had five Community Development graduate students to work on projects going beyond regular course-based service learning requirements. They included: Eric Atchison, Gerrit DeYoung, Chandra Hines, Monica Rosas and Sallie Simmons. All of them were Hearin Fellows at some point during the year. Lily Luo, a Business graduate student and B.F. Smith Scholar, also worked with the Institute.

The Institute benefited from the contributions of Katie Kerstetter, an AmeriCorps*VISTA member. Through grants and contracts the Institute was able to hire a temporary part-time staff member, Sallie Simmons, following her graduation from the MSCD program in December 2007. Also through external funds, the Institute contracted with Alkie Edwards, another MSCD graduate and former Hearin Fellow who now works as a Community Development Specialist and has provided assistance to Oxfam America and the American Friends Service Committee.

New Initiatives

Under the leadership of Katie Kerstetter, the Institute has developed, piloted and is now evaluating an effort that combines education and training, technical assistance and applied research. Addressing Community Challenges by Empowering Students and Staff (ACCESS) is a practicum course designed for students to work in partnership with community members and nonprofit organization staff on real-world projects. In the spring 2007 semester, the Institute piloted the first ACCESS practicum course, focusing on resource assessment. Participants included three graduate students and nonprofit staff members from Tougaloo College/Delta Health Partners Healthy Start Program, the Lower Mississippi Delta Service Corps, and the AmeriCorps*VISTA Program. Through participation in monthly workshops and field research, each pair of participants designed and implemented a resource assessment for a nonprofit organization. From this work, they prepared an assessment manual, and delivered a presentation on the process and their findings.

Katie Kerstetter is now leading evaluation of ACCESS, and she will use this information to revise the curriculum. She will deliver a presentation from this at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society in Santa Clara, California. Following revisions, ACCESS will be offered again in the 2007-2008 academic year. With assistance from Ms. Kerstetter and Ms. Simmons, I submitted an application to the American Sociological Association's "Sydney S. Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy" for continuation and expansion of the ACCESS program. It was funded in the amount of \$2,800.

Learning from past efforts to assist community organizations working in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the Institute noted that addressing the immediate needs of community residents often leaves them little time and few resources to build their own capacity. As a response, the Institute and five community organizations are participating in an innovative capacity-building project. Working with the University of Michigan School of Public Health and Southeastern Louisiana University's Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, the project engages students, faculty and organization staff in performing resource assessments and developing and implementing capacity-building plans to address their unique needs. As noted below under *Applied Research and Development Projects*, this effort was awarded financial support from the Foundation for the Mid South.

Mississippi Delta Leaders Empowering Youth (MDLEY) is a program funded through the Department of Health and Human Services' Compassion Capital Fund. It began its first year of activity in late January 2007. The Center for Community and Economic Development at Delta State University serves as the lead organization in partnership with the Mississippi Center for Nonprofits and the Institute. MDLEY provides faith-based and community organizations with training and technical assistance in an effort to help them build capacity and better serve youth. For its part, the Institute is providing assistance with assessment and evaluation of MDLEY. The same partners are working to expand these efforts for capacity building to work with additional community organizations. The CCED recently submitted a proposal entitled "Providing Organizations with Effective Resources" (POWER) to the Compassion Capital Fund. As a partner, the Institute submitted a plan for assessment and evaluation that falls inline with the strategies being used for MDLEY.

Another active-learning innovation made by the Institute this year has been in the realm of field research. Building from past projects conducted through the Division of Social Sciences that worked with students and faculty to survey minority farmers in Arkansas (2004) and residents of Cleveland (2005 through Dr. Albert Nylander's Sociology of Education course), Mound Bayou (2005) and Ruleville (2005), this year the Institute and the Division of Social Sciences are partnering with faculty in the Brigham Young University Department of Sociology to conduct a community survey in two Delta towns. This is a follow-up study to a community quality of life survey that was conducted in the mid 1990s. Starting as a two-week May intersession course, six students (including undergraduates and graduates) will be conducting face-to-face interviews with adults from a sample of households in Charleston and Marks, Mississippi. Three of the participants are Hearin Fellows, and two of the students are undergraduates.

Working under the leadership of Dr. Meikle and Dr. Jerry Robinson, I have been participating in an effort to develop a partnership with the University of the West Indies, Mona. Together, we visited Jamaica and the UWI campus in June 2006, followed by hosting a visit to DSU by four UWI faculty members in October of the same year. With support from the Division of Social Sciences and the Division of Graduate and Continuing Studies, Dr. Meikle and I will be teaching a June 2007 undergraduate/graduate course on globalization which will entail field research in Jamaica and attention to differences and similarities between development in the Caribbean and the Mississippi Delta.

Recognizing the unique and innovative contributions that students have to offer the community development process and the financial constraints they must confront in pursuing such applied endeavors, the Institute has established a fund with the DSU Alumni Foundation to support their work. The "Community Development Student Research Fund" will provide small grants/scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students conducting applied research with a community development focus. The kick-off event for this fund will be the First Annual Recognition and Scholarship Dinner scheduled for June 5. It is being planned by Ms. Kerstetter in partnership with current and former MSCD students.

Applied Research and Development Projects

The following list details applied research and development projects undertaken by the Institute over the past year.

Enhancing the Capacity of Nonprofit Organizations in the Aftermath of Disaster. Institute for Community-Based Research in partnership with the Southeastern Louisiana University Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice and the University of Michigan School of Public Health. (Funded by the Foundation for the Mid South for \$60,000). 2007-08. (Primary Investigator).

Evaluation of Mississippi Delta Leaders Empowering Youth (MDLEY). Center for Community and Economic Development in partnership with the Mississippi Center for Nonprofits and the Institute for Community-Based Research. (Funded by the Dept. of Health and Human Services, subcontract for Evaluation is in the amount of \$11,800 for the first year). 2006-09.

Evaluation of the Healthy Start Program in the Mississippi Delta. Tougaloo College Health and Wellness Center and Delta Health Partners. (Funded by the Dept. of Health and Human Services, subcontract for Evaluation is in the amount of \$10,000). 2005-07.

Evaluation of the Delta Reads Partnership. Center for Community and Economic Development. (Funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service/Mississippi Center for Volunteer Service, subcontract for evaluation is in the amount of \$2,500).

Evaluation of the Partners Investing in Nursing's Future Initiative. Dreyfus Health Foundation and the DSU School of Nursing. (Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Northwest Health Foundation, subcontract for evaluation is in the amount of \$4,500 for the first year). 2006-08.

Evaluation Committee Member. Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi. (Contract funded in the amount of \$500 per day, up to a total of \$4,000). 2006-07.

Participant Evaluation and Data Technical Assistance for the Communities of Opportunity Initiative in Leflore County, Mississippi. (Funded by the Foundation for the Mid South and Walton Foundation). 2005-07. (Renewal subcontract is still under negotiation).

Expanding the Marketing Opportunities for Minority and Limited Resource Farmers in Louisiana and Mississippi. Southeastern Louisiana University in partnership with Delta State University, Mississippi Association of Cooperatives and Heifer International. (Funded by the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, subcontract was in the amount of \$2,604). 2005-06.

Meeting the Risk Management Needs of Small, Limited Resource and Minority Producers. Rural Coalition. (Funded by the Risk Management Agency, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture). 2004-07. (Renewal subcontract is still under negotiation).

Scholarly Outputs from Applied Research and Development Projects

From the wide variety of research projects undertaken through the Institute, several presentations were made at professional conferences.

Carlson, L., J.J. Green and V. Bingham. 2007. "Exploration of Results from the Delta State University School of Nursing Dietary and Diabetic Survey." Presented at the Annual Delta State University Faculty Research Scholarship Symposium. Cleveland, MS.

- Green, J.J., E. Atchison, K. Kerstetter and J. Garcia. 2007. "Informing Disaster Relief and Recovery: A Sociological Perspective." Roundtable Discussion at the Annual Meeting of the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association. Montgomery, AL.
- Green, J.J. and K. Kerstetter. 2007. "Quality of Life and Employment Opportunities: A Summary Report from the 2005 Delta Rural Poll." Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association. Montgomery, AL.
- Kerstetter, K., E. Atchison, C. Hines, A. Edwards and J.J. Green. "Organizational Capacity Development through Community-Based Research and Planning." Poster Presented at the Annual Delta State University Faculty Research Scholarship Symposium. Cleveland, MS.
- Kleiner, A.M. and J.J. Green. 2007. "Expanding the Marketing Opportunities and Sustainable Production Potential for Minority and Limited Resource Farmers in Louisiana and Mississippi." Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Rural Sociological Society. Mobile, AL.
- C.J. Flint, J.J. Green, Brennan, M., A.E. Luloff, D.M. Tootle and D.M. Simpson. 2006. "Rural Communities and Disaster: Roundtable Discussion." Roundtable Discussion at the Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society.
- Green, J.J. 2006. "Investigating Responses to Hurricane Katrina through a "Sociology of Community Development" Lens." Guest Lecture for the University of Mississippi Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Oxford, MS.
- Green, J.J., A.M. Kleiner, P. Howard, A. Barton and M. Rosas. 2006. "Community-Based Research as Teaching Pedagogy." Panel at the Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society. Louisville, KY.
- Green, J.J., A.M. Kleiner, J.P. Montgomery and I.S. Bayer. 2006. "Working the Frontlines of Relief, Recovery, and Redevelopment: Exploring the Views of Service Providers in the Wake of Disaster." Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society. Louisville, KY.
- Green, J.J., A.M. Kleiner, J.P. Montgomery and I.S. Bayer. 2006. "The Texture of Local Disaster Response: Documenting the Experiences, Needs and Recommendations of Service Providers Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita." Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Mid South Sociological Association. Lafayette, LA.
- Green, J.J., A.B. Nylander III, and K. Kerstetter. 2006. "Socioeconomic Status, Access to Care and Perceived Health: A Multi-Year Study from the Mississippi Delta." Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association. Lafayette, LA.

Technical reports and working papers are often submitted to partner organizations as a way of disseminating research results and analysis. Oftentimes, these documents are released to the wider public.

Green, J.J., A.M. Kleiner, J.P. Montgomery, I.S. Bayer, K. Kerstetter and E. Rothney. 2006. "Voices from the Frontlines: Service Providers Share their Experiences from Working in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina." University of Michigan School of Public Health, Michigan Center for Public Health Policy. (Print and Web).

Green, J.J. 2006. "Enhancing Livelihood Strategies Among Small-Scale and Limited Resource Farmers." Working Paper for the Rural Coalition.

Green, J.J. and E.M. Green. 2006. "Creating the Future: The CBO/USDA Partnership Third Annual USDA Partners Meeting." Narrative Report to the Rural Coalition and US Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

Green, J.J., S. Simmons and S. Leonard. 2006. "Participant Evaluation of the Mississippi Delta Healthy Start Program." Working Paper for the Tougaloo College Health and Wellness Center and Delta Health Partners.

Leonard, S. and J.J. Green. 2006. "Participant Evaluation of Dreyfus Health Foundation Projects in the Mississippi Delta." Working Paper for the Dreyfus Health Foundation.

As a part of the social science enterprise, edited and refereed publications are a major focus for the Institute. Listed here are some of the works submitted, accepted and/or published during the past year.

Accepted articles, book chapters and book reviews include:

Green, J.J., D.A. Gill and A.M. Kleiner. 2006. "From Vulnerability to Resiliency: Assessing Impacts and Responses to Disaster." *Southern Rural Sociology* 21(2): 89-99.

Kleiner, A.M., J.J. Green and A.B. Nylander III. Forthcoming. "A Community Study of Disaster Impacts and Redevelopment Issues Facing East Biloxi, Mississippi." In *The Sociology of Katrina: Perspectives on a Modern Catastrophe*. Edited by D. Brumsa, S. Overfelt and S. Picou. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

Green, J.J. 2006. "Review of *Famine that Kills: Darfur, Sudan* by Alex de Waal." *Rural Sociology* 71(3): 537-540.

The following papers were submitted for peer-review.

Green, J.J., K. Kerstetter and A.B. Nylander III. "Socioeconomic Resources and Self-Rated Health: A Multi-Year Study from the Mississippi Delta." Submitted to *Sociological Spectrum*.

Green, J.J., A.M. Kleiner, J.P. Montgomery, I.S. Bayer. "Working the Frontlines of Relief, Recovery and Redevelopment: Exploring the Views of Service Providers in the Wake of Disaster." Submitted to *Southern Rural Sociology*, received a "revise and resubmit" recommendation.

Kleiner, A.M. and J.J. Green. "Expanding the Marketing Opportunities and Sustainable Production Potential for Minority and Limited Resource Farmers in Louisiana and Mississippi." Submitted to *Southern Rural Sociology*.

John J. Green's Service on Behalf of the Institute

As Director of the Institute, I participate in several service activities. Although it is difficult to distinguish activities engaged in on behalf of the Institute from those expected from a general faculty member, the following list represents those in which I represented the collective interests of the Division of Social Sciences and the Center for Community Development.

Graduate Coordinator for the Master of Science in Community Development Program, Division of Social Sciences.

Chair, Faculty Search Committee for Sociology and Community Development, Division of Social Sciences.

Committee Member, Delta Rural Poll, Center for Community and Economic Development.

Member, Delta State University Research Committee.

--Subcommittee for planning the Annual Faculty Research and Scholarship Symposium.

--Subcommittee for large proposals submitted to President Dr. John Hilpert's Health and Wellness Research and Awareness Fund.

Committee Member, Delta State University Year of Health and Wellness in the Delta.

Selection Committee, Delta State University Foundation Faculty Prizes in Teaching, Service and Research.

Advisory Committee, Volunteers in Service to America. Center for Community and Economic Development.

In addition to these formal roles, I worked with other faculty in pursuit of larger initiatives. These included:

Assisting Dr. Jerry W. Robinson Jr. and Dr. Nylander in preparing and submitting the Hearin Fellows proposal for continued

funding. The proposal was successful, with a total of \$300,000 in funding awarded by the Hearin Foundation to support Community Development graduate students.

Working with Dr. Alan Barton and Director of the Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center Dr. Arthur G. Cosby to secure support for the 2007 Delta Rural Poll. This too was successful, with the SSRC covering the costs in-house. The 2007 DRP has been completed, and the data were delivered to Dr. Barton.

Assisting with leadership in the Division of Social Sciences while Dr. Albert B. Nylander III was in China in August 2006. I served as Acting Chair, helping with start-up of the fall semester.

My service to the discipline through professional organizations consisted of a variety of efforts, such as:

Chair, Sociology of Agriculture and Food Research Interest Group. Rural Sociological Society. 2006-07.

At-Large Committee Member for Mississippi. Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association. 2004-07.

Reviewer, Undergraduate Student Paper Competition. Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association. 2007.

Co-documentarian, Community-Based Organizations and U.S. Department of Agriculture Third Annual Partners Meeting. Washington, D.C. 2005-07.

Manuscript Peer Reviewer for Scholarly Journals:

Journal of the Community Development Society.

Rural Sociology, Journal of the Rural Sociological Society.

Southern Rural Sociology, Journal of the Southern Rural Sociological Association.

Society and Natural Resources, Journal of the International Association of Society and Natural Resources.

Advisory Committee, Mississippi SHINE (formerly the Mississippi Delta State Rural Development Network). 2004-07.

External Reviewer, Small Business Research and Innovation Grant Program. US Dept. of Agriculture. 2007.

Plans for the Next Year

As noted at the beginning of this memorandum, the Institute for Community-Based Research is going through a planning and restructuring process. This will continue over the course of the next year, with the desire of focusing more attention on collaborative projects that inform and empower community development students, practitioners and organizations. This will entail expansion of the

assessment and evaluation work being conducted with the MDLEY and POWER programs, education and training provided through ACCESS, and continuation of course-based community surveys. More attention will be directed toward publication of research results and analysis, thereby informing a wider audience and increasing the presence of the Institute within social science and development studies circles.

Although major advancements have been made in planning for the sustainability of the organization, there are additional resources needed for the work of the Institute to continue and improve.

First, the day-to-day administration of projects and the corresponding paperwork is simply too much for me as the Director to handle. As my work as Director of the Institute is only supposed to account for part of my time, I am also managing the MSCD program, teaching courses and advising students. Despite my best efforts, I need help. I would like to request support for a permanent assistant to work on day-to-day development, project management and paperwork for the Institute. Until this human resource need is addressed, it will be difficult to expand the reach of the Institute.

Second, I foresee needing additional space for the Institute. With the restructuring efforts underway and the involvement of another faculty member, we will need more room. The Institute currently shares an office with the Delta Rural Poll, and the graduate student office is often at maximum capacity during the regular semester.

To close, I want to thank the Center for Community and Economic Development and the Division of Social Sciences for providing the Institute with so many opportunities throughout the past year. I hope that our work has benefited your organization and programs. I am looking forward to another great year.

Breast Education and Early-detection Program (BEEP): Funded by the Central Mississippi Steel Magnolia Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Breast Cancer Foundation this program implements a Breast Health Education and Breast Cancer Screening Project in Bolivar County, Mississippi. Funding totals \$42,028.50.

The Center for Community and Economic Development, Delta State University (Cleveland, MS, in Bolivar County), in partnership with the (a) Delta State University's School of Nursing, (b) the Delta Health Center located in Mound Bayou, MS, Bolivar County, (c) Bolivar Medical Center, (d) Leaders of Delta Health and Wellness, and (e) the AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) program administered by the Center for Community and Economic Development. Delta State University will focus on breast health education, Delta Health Center and Bolivar Medical Center will focus on annual breast exams and breast cancer screenings.

The project's mission is: ***“Eradicating Breast Cancer as a Life-Threatening Disease by Advancing Education and Early Detection”***. This project will develop and demonstrate creative, innovative and effective approaches to eradicating breast cancer; thereby increasing the number of women who adopt early detection methods. The approach targets a population of low- income

women in communities that have limited access to preventive health services and plans to link them to services that will address their breast health needs. Ensuring the highest level of health among women also improves the health and wellbeing of children, families, the workforce and the entire nation.

Workshops will be held throughout Bolivar County and will be open to the general public. 100 low-income, underinsured, at-risk participants, county wide, will be tracked over a nine-month period (April-December) to determine the impact of the program. Through this project, participants will increase their knowledge about breast cancer and breast health and make healthier lifestyle choices.

One hundred low-income women in the program, age 40 and older, who are underinsured and at-risk will be referred for annual screenings and mammograms. Scholarships will be available in the amount of \$25.00 each to assist with transportation to exams and screenings for 50 of the underinsured and at-risk participants.

Delta Rural Poll (DRP): is a program of the Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) at Delta State University (DSU). For the past four years, the Delta Rural Poll has served the people of the Mississippi Delta by collecting data for researchers to use in policy oriented research. Over the past year, the Delta Rural Poll has extended its scope by building partnerships between DSU and other universities in Mississippi and around the country, and by establishing closer ties with Delta communities. Dr. Alan Barton has directed the Delta Rural Poll since its inception, in collaboration with a Coordinating Committee that consists of Faculty Associates from the CCED, as well as a new Advisory Committee formed this past year.

The Delta Rural Poll is administered by the Program Director and Principal Investigator, in collaboration with a Faculty Coordinating Committee (FCC). The Principal Investigator is responsible for the day-to-day operations and administration of the Delta Rural Poll project, and serves as a Program Director with the CCED. Members of the FCC serve for two years. The primary mission of the FCC is to prepare each survey. Members identify themes and develop questionnaires. The FCC is also responsible for all major policy decisions pertaining to the Delta Rural Poll. Since its inception, Dr. Alan Barton has served as Program Director and Principal Investigator. Dr. Brent Hales was Co-Principal Investigator for the 2003 and 2005 surveys, as well as a member of the FCC. Dr. John Green and Dr. Albert Nylander served as members of the Faculty Coordinating Committee for the 2003, 2005 and 2007 surveys. During the summer of 2006, Dr. Brent Hales left Delta State University. Dr. Paulette Meikle-Yaw, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Community Development in the Division of Social Sciences, joined the Faculty Coordinating Committee at the beginning of Fall Semester, 2006. Dr. Meikle-Yaw has been on the DSU faculty since 2005, and is a graduate of Mississippi State University in Sociology. During Fall Semester 2006, the Delta Rural Poll Faculty Coordinating Committee met and agreed to form a new Advisory Committee. This committee consists of faculty and other parties from Delta State and other institutions who have a stake and interest in the Delta Rural Poll, but who are not on the FCC. Creating this institutional position provides the opportunity to include people across campus and beyond DSU, incorporating greater community participation into the project and establishing links around the country. Since the beginning, the objectives of the Delta Rural Poll have focused on serving the Delta, and this committee is one step towards building links between the campus and other entities around the Delta. The Delta Rural Poll

also has worked closely with similar projects in other states, and the Advisory Committee could be used as a way of institutionalizing relationships between the Delta Rural Poll and directors and staff of other rural polls. Shortly after this meeting, Dr. Brent Hales, now on the faculty at the University of Southern Mississippi, agreed to serve as a member of this Advisory Committee. Toward the end of 2006. Larry Webster, a Project Administrator at the CCED, expressed an interest in serving on this committee; however, the FCC has not met to further discuss these matters, so additional members of this committee will not be determined until 2007.

Jolana Gibbs, a graduate student in the Community Development program, worked with the Delta Rural Poll project during Spring semester, 2006. Ms. Gibbs was supported by a Hearin Fellowship through the Division of Social Sciences. She assisted in data analysis pertaining to heritage tourism from the 2005 survey. In June, 2006, Ms. Gibbs traveled to Vancouver, Canada along with the Principal Investigator to give a presentation on this research at the International Symposium for Society and Resource Management. During the Fall semester, 2006, Eric Atchison, a new graduate student in the Community Development program, was assigned to work with the principal investigator. Mr. Atchison is also supported by a Hearin Fellowship. Mr. Atchison has been working on analyzing qualitative interviews on heritage tourism. Mr. Atchison will continue in this position during Spring Semester 2007.

In 2006, the Delta Rural Poll initiated a new policy-oriented publication series, the Policy Briefs. These supplement the Policy Papers series, but focus on concise presentation of results and policy recommendations, focusing on one specific policy issue surveyed by the Delta Rural Poll. Typically, Policy Briefs are 4 pages, and include a brief description of one issue, accompanied with tables and graphs which show the data from the Delta Rural Poll survey. The first Policy Brief was issued in February 2006, focusing on heritage tourism. Policy Briefs are prepared and published in-house, and sent to policymakers, researchers and community leaders. Policy Briefs are also posted on the Delta Rural Poll website. The printer donated to the Delta Rural Poll by Dr. Garry Jennings of the Madison Center has facilitated in house publication of Policy Briefs.

An application for a Continuing Review was submitted to the Delta State University Institutional Review Board (IRB) at the beginning of 2006, and was approved. Once the questionnaire for the 2007 survey was completed (described below), it was submitted to the DSU IRB as well, and was approved in conjunction with the approval granted by the Mississippi State University Institutional Review Board.

There was no survey conducted in 2006; the next is scheduled for early 2007. A variety of activities were conducted in 2006 to prepare for the 2007 survey. First, funding for the survey was arranged during the summer of 2006. We submitted a proposal to the Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University, the entity that carries out the survey, and in August they notified us that they would finance the 2007 survey. The second half of 2006 was spent preparing the questionnaire and the administration of this survey. The long-term vision for the Delta Rural Poll has always included substantial community involvement in the survey project, yet during the first two survey cycles, as we were building the infrastructure for the project, there was very little direct community involvement nor buy-in in the development of topics and actual questions. Communities were still directly involved in the Delta Rural Poll through the qualitative interviewing, but the survey was largely the domain of the Delta Rural Poll Faculty Coordinating Committee, only one of whom was a native of the Delta region.

By 2006, we had built a sufficient administrative structure for the project, and we were ready to begin building greater bridges to Delta communities. Thus, in the construction of the questionnaire for the 2007 survey, an effort was made to incorporate a variety of groups in the selection of topics and the production of questions. First, we aimed to reach out across the DSU campus and invited participation from departments other than just the Division of Social Sciences. Next, we actively solicited direct involvement from the staff at the Center for Community and Economic Development and other Centers on campus. Finally, we asked for greater involvement from community organizations in the selection of topics and construction of the questionnaire. These efforts to incorporate a larger voice from the broader Delta community in the Delta Rural Poll culminated in a community meeting held at the CCED in October, 2006. In addition to the Division of Social Sciences, representatives from the CCED staff, the Delta Center and from community organizations including the San Gabriel Mercy Mission in Mound Bayou and Delta Health Partners attended this meeting. Dr. Alan Barton facilitated the meeting and Eric Atchison kept notes.

The meeting began with a brief presentation on the history of the Delta Rural Poll, and then we had a moderated dialogue on potential topics and questions for the poll. The process was very valuable and produced a number of good ideas for survey topics and questions. The Delta Rural Poll Coordinating Committee then met and discussed potential topics. Committee members submitted potential questions, which we reviewed. We decided to include the standard questions on demographics, employment and quality of life, and we added a new section of social capital questions that may become permanent fixtures in our questionnaire. Among the topics that emerged from the meeting, we selected early childhood education programs and youth after-school programs, social problems, health care, and a smoking ban as the thematic topics to incorporate into the 2007 survey. Perceptions of early childhood education and youth development were proposed by CCED staff, and will directly contribute to on-going CCED projects. The social problems questions were proposed by the Social Work faculty, and will support research in their department.

And the health care questions emerged from community organizations and drew strong support from all present at the community meeting, so we decided to continue with these questions, in order to track trends monitored in both the 2003 and 2005 surveys. The issue of smoking bans has generated substantial attention in Mississippi over the past year as several communities have instituted such bans, and this is a specific health care policy issue that we wanted to assess in the Delta region. One of the objectives of the Delta Rural Poll is to collaborate with similar polls in other states, and 2006 was a banner year for building these partnerships. Dr. Alan Barton and Dr. Brent Hales, co-Principal Investigators for the Delta Rural Poll, took a leadership role in organizing national meetings with directors of other rural surveys. In February, 2006, Dr. Barton and Dr. Hales traveled to San Antonio, TX, to participate in the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP). At this meeting, Dr. Barton participated in a panel with directors from the Nebraska Rural Poll, based at the University of Nebraska, and the Indiana Rural Poll, based at Purdue University.

In addition, both Dr. Barton and Dr. Hales joined other rural poll directors for strategy meetings to plan coordination of polls at the national level. These exercises came to fruition in August, 2006, at the Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society in Louisville, KY. Dr. Hales organized and chaired a day-long workshop on rural polling, and Dr. Barton gave a presentation on the

Delta Rural Poll at this meeting. Representatives from the Nebraska Rural Poll, based at the University of Nebraska, the Indiana Rural Poll, based at Purdue University, the Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll, based at Iowa State University, and the Ohio Survey of Food, Agriculture and the Environment, based at Ohio State University also gave presentations on their projects. Many people who are interested in initiating similar projects attended this meeting, representing institutions such as Michigan State University, Clemson University, University of Kentucky, and the University of Nevada-Reno. The past year has seen the Delta Rural Poll grow and make strides towards accomplishing the objectives originally set out in 2003. Most notably, the Delta Rural Poll strengthened ties with similar projects in other states, with the SSRC at Mississippi State University, and built stronger partnerships in the Delta to incorporate greater community involvement in the Delta Rural Poll project. Community participation has been strengthened as well by incorporating data collection into DSU courses. A number of DSU graduate students made substantial contributions to the Delta Rural Poll project this past year, in the collection and interpretation of qualitative data.

Many of the graduate students are natives of the Mississippi Delta, and thereby contribute to community participation in the project. Finally, the Delta Rural Poll strengthened ties with other CCED projects during 2006, particularly in the process of preparing the 2007 survey. Questions developed for the survey support CCED projects, and the topics and questions were contributed by program managers for these projects.

V. Personnel: *(note staff positions and functions)*

Noteworthy activities and accomplishments:

Larry Webster secured park equipment valued at \$10,000.00 from the Tutwiler Correctional Facility to be used in the **Tutwiler Park** that the MDSC staff and members are constructing.

America Reads Mississippi established a partnership with **DSU's School of Nursing (SON)**. SON will provide health education using the Healthy Tutor Curriculum for all America Reads Mississippi members.

Deborah Moore received a \$1,100.00 scholarship from **the Mississippi Economic Development Council** to enroll in classes through the International Development Council. She attended the introductory class in September-The New South Course.

CCED sponsored the **First Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Forum** in October. The forum consisted of breast cancer survivors and health care professionals. Seventy-five individuals attended the event.

CCED staff was host to a group from **University of West Indies, Mona, Jamaica on October 22-23**. The Division of Social Sciences is considering a partnership with them for international student and faculty exchanges.

Delta Reads Partnership applied for and received books through the **First Books**. Samona Gary is on the First Books Advisory Board.

CCED sponsored **the First Annual World AIDS Day** in partnership with CCC, MVSU, Delta Health Center, Lower Mississippi Delta Service Corps and the Cleveland Youth Council. Students in the junior high schools in Bolivar County participated in a poetry contest focusing on AIDS. Students in the two high schools in Cleveland participated in a poetry contest. Individuals who are HIV positive and health care professionals served on a panel during the event.

CCED cosponsored the **4th Annual Delta Health and Wellness Day**. It was held at the Bolivar County Expo. Over 800 participants received free screenings and free information about their health.

CCED sponsored the **5th Annual MS Walk** in April. The event was held in Walters Coliseum due to inclement weather. Over \$6,000.00 was raised this year for MS.

Meg Jones was selected to serve on **staff council** as an at large member to represent grant-funded programs.

CCED sponsored a **December around the World** event during the Christmas Open House. All staff researched a country and its people's culture and decorated their door based on that country and its culture. Approximately 95 staff from campus visited the Center.

All AmeriCorps programs and the Institute for Community Based Research have established a **donor campaign**. So far approximately \$500.00 has been secured.

Beronica Wilder wrote a successful grant proposal to Entergy in the amount of \$1000.00 to assist in expenses associated with the MS Walk.

Deborah Moore and Linda Stringfellow submitted an application to the Corporation for National and Community Service to renew the **VISTA** program for three additional years. The funding was approved in the amount of \$433,553.00 annually.

Meg Jones, Hines Cronin, Deborah Moore and Tomeka Harbin successfully submitted a proposal to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for a Compassion Capital Fund. The proposal was approved in the amount of \$300,000.00. the **MDLEY** program works with 17 faith-based and community organizations to provide capacity building. A partnership was established with the Mississippi Center for Non-Profits to provide training and technical assistance and the Institute for Community Based Research to provide evaluation.

Deborah Moore wrote a successful proposal to the **Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation** in the amount of \$42,082.00 to provide breast health education to Bolivar County.

Deborah Moore wrote a successful proposal to **Delta and Pine Land** (7,500.00) to assist with placing tutors in Ruleville Elementary School and Bolivar County Head Start.

Deborah Moore is working with Geri Adams from Congressman Bennie Thompson's office to provide training to mayors and elected officials to assist them in their role. The group meets bi-weekly. Training topics include: waste water management, disaster relief preparedness, grant writing, etc.

Linda Stringfellow and Deborah Moore are pursuing the Economic Development Professional Certification. They have successfully completed two of the courses. They will complete the final course in October.

Kristen Pyron worked with Mayors in Gunnison, Rosedale, Shaw, Ruleville and Beulah to create a brochure that they can use for public relations.

Kristen Pyron worked with the Mayor in Rosedale to submit a grant proposal for a new fire truck.

REDEFINE group has been established at DSU. This group consists of faculty, staff and students at DSU who are interested in addressing diversity issues on campus and in the Delta communities. The group is in the process of developing a mission and vision statement and establishing goals.

Deborah Moore worked with Ernest Brothers and Ben Bufkin to develop a **Diversity Strategic Plan** for the University.

Deborah Moore, Larry Webster and Valerie Pennington wrote a successful proposal to the Corporation for National and Community Service for the **Delta Service Corps** program. The program has been refunded for three more years. Negotiations are in process on the amount of funding.

Deborah Moore, Kathy Davidson and Katie Kerkester conducted research and created a poster for the **Second Annual Scholarship Symposium at DSU**.

The **Youth Entrepreneurial Program (YEP)** has been created through a partnership with CCED, VISTA, Cleveland Youth Council and Beauty Queen. Sixteen youth will participate in a summer pilot program.

Meg Jones submitted a grant application (**POWER) Providing Organizations with Effective Resources**, to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of \$500,000.00 per year for three years. If approved, this program is designed to work with faith based and community organizations to build capacity through min-grants, training and technical assistance. Organizations in the Arkansas and Mississippi Delta will be eligible to apply.

Deborah Moore was an inaugural recipient of Delta State University's 2006-2007 Foundation Prize for Staff Excellence in Service to the Community. The award consisted of a plaque and a \$3000.00 cash award.

New position(s) requested, with justification: N/A

Recommended change of status: N/A

(such as promotion/tenure/change in responsibilities for various positions; any restructuring. . .)

VI. Division/Department Goals for Coming Year

*(This is a report on progress towards goals for the **coming year**. These are operational goals for the unit that are NOT tied directly to student learning outcomes which are reported in the table above. These goals may be repeated ones from current year, in addition to any your unit may have determined necessary for the future. For each of the goals, be specific about what you intend to do with each initiative.)*

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 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.