Active Learning through Community Connections
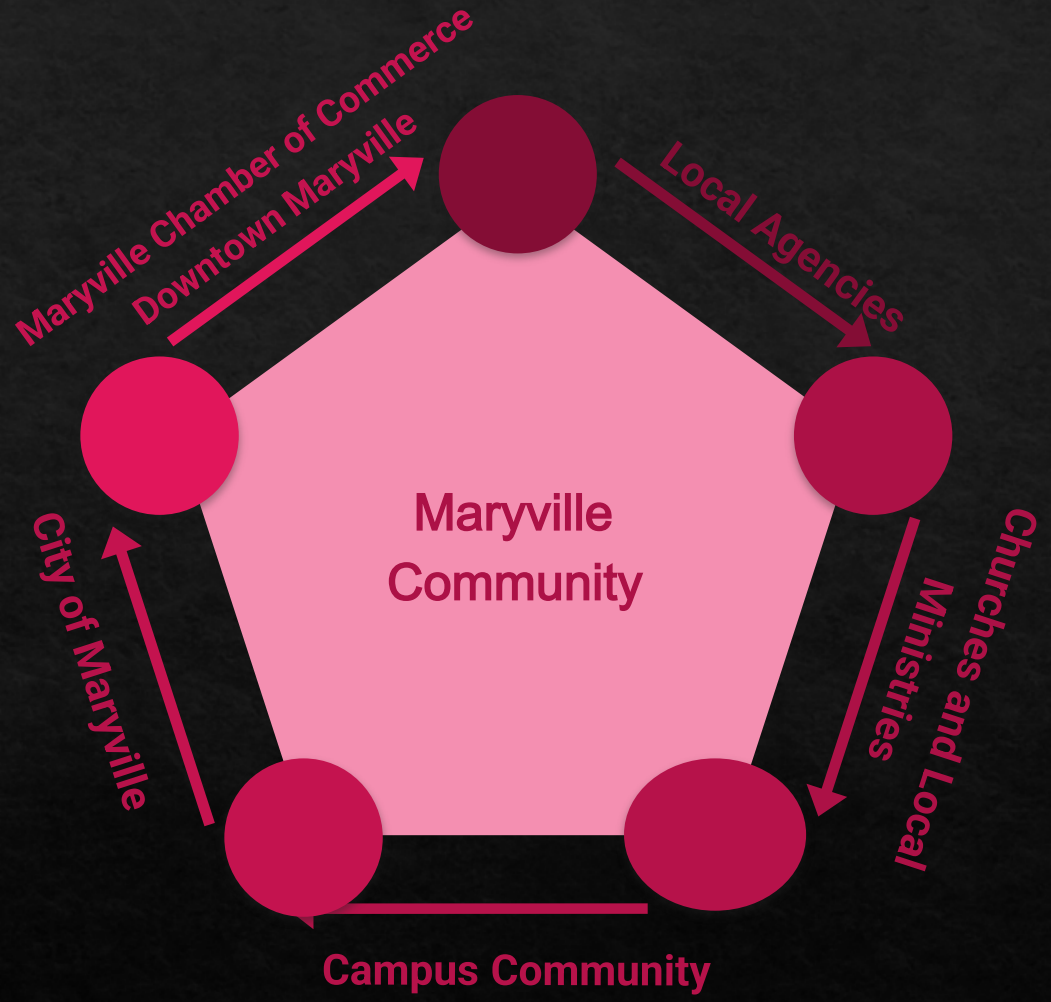
Sarah E. Marsh

Senior Instructor, Division of Behavioral Sciences
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DeAnn Davison

Executive Director- Downtown Maryville
Director of Tourism- City of Maryville

Maryville
Community

Maryville Chamber of Commerce
Downtown Maryville

Local Agencies

Churches and Local
Ministries

Campus Community

City of Maryville

Pedagogy Definitions

Active Learning-generally defined as any instructional method that engages students in the learning process. Active learning requires students to do meaningful learning activities and think about what they are doing (Bonwell, 2010 & Eison, 2010

Profession Based Learning- Real-life, hands-on, problem-solving experiences that can be done through case studies with external and internal audiences, peer-to-peer learning, practicums or field experiences. https://www.nwmissouri.edu/career/profession-based-learning.htm

Service-learning -A teaching and learning strategy that integrates

meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the

learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

(National Service-learning Clearinghouse).

Examples of Practice……..

Service Learning
Active Learning

Oak Hill Cemetery

Assignment in 08-330 The Family to learn about family life, trends and history. (See example in Canvas)

Collaborated with the City of Maryville to clean stones (the proper way) which were moss covered. Students completed their assignment and field research while cleaning stones.

Service Learning
Profession Based Learning
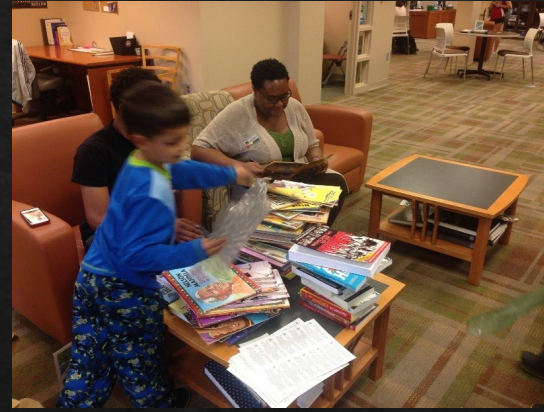*Active Learning*

Conversations for Change

08-405 Parenthood Education project which began in 2016 in response to parents and teachers request/need to increase resources and skills to talk about race and civil rights with children.

Improvement of Teaching and Learning Grant from Provost to purchase books and resources.

Partnership with Leet Center for Children and Families, Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the public elementary school.
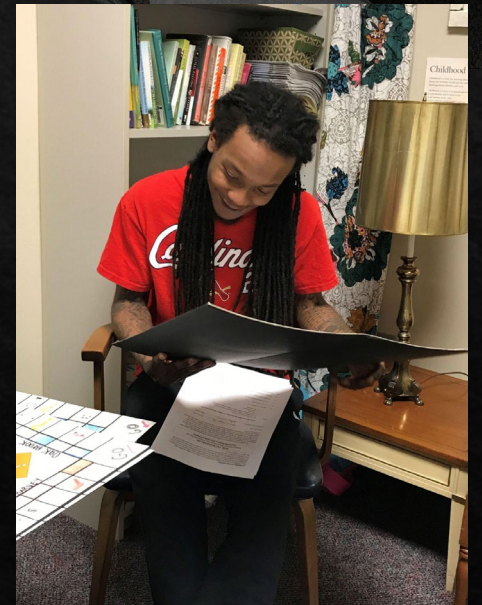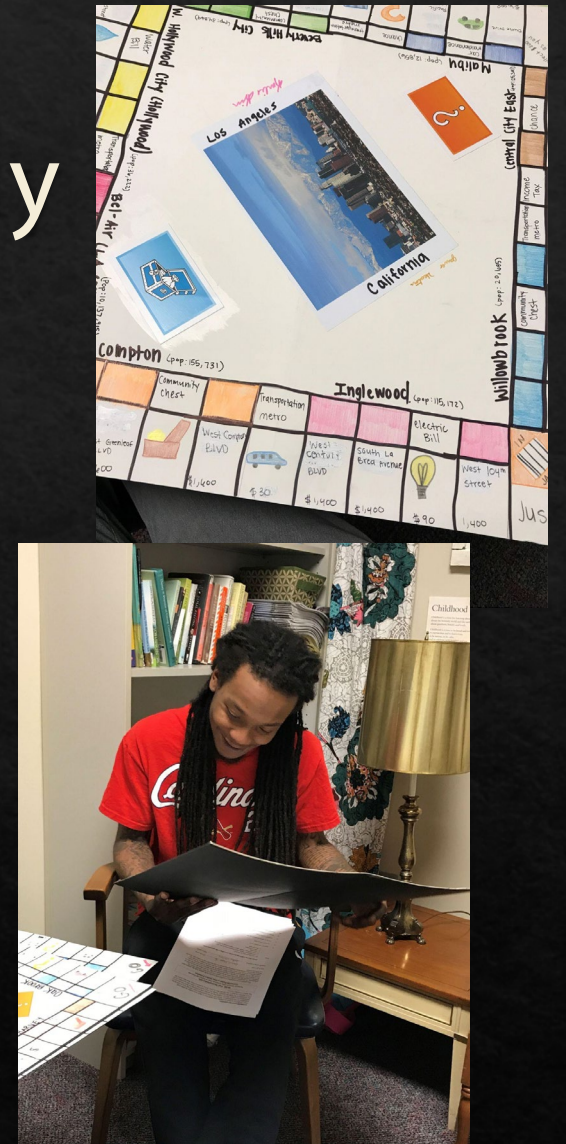
Project and data collected presented at National Association for Education of Young Children in 2017

Independent Study- City Demographics Monopoly

Students (Child and Family Studies) completed an Independent study project designing a monopoly game depicting demographics of a large city in the United States.

-Opportunities, education, recreation, income levels, and socio-economic status representative of the city selected.

-Real examples

-Game has been used in The Family classroom and in the Horace Mann Laboratory School.

Cornerstones of Care: Local Foster Care Agency

Cornerstones of Care came to Maryville in 2014. They are contracted as our local Foster Care Agency.

Students in 08-405 Parenthood Education assisted with publicity and awareness of the agency in the Maryville Community as well as initial foster parent recruitment initiatives including fliers, education seminars and information sessions.

I continue to collaborate with this agency at a state and regional level on research and presentations.

Ideas, Questions, and Feedback….

Past Projects and Ideas…

→LeetCenter for Children Parent Resource Room (Needs Assessment, Purchased Materials, Evaluated)

→StudentComposition II Ministry Center (2003)

→Local 8th Grade Geometry Project Thompson Splash Pad

Future Projects and Ideas….

W hat examples of service learning, active learning or profession-based learning have you done in your classes?

W hat ideas do you have to incorporate service learning and profession-based learning into your classes in the future?

W hat questions, concerns or obstacles exist in planning and executing service and/or profession-based learning?

Helpful Resources

◈ Scoring Guides

◈ Reflection of Learning

◈ Improvement of Teaching and Learning Grants

◈ Student Travel Permission Forms (Can be embedded in Canvas now-see example)

Benefits of Volunteering

- Volunteering connects you to others
  - Make new friends and contacts
  - Increase your social and relationship skills
- Volunteering can advance your career
  - Teaches valuable job skills
  - Gain career experience
  - Focus on passion and positivity
- Volunteering brings fun and fulfillment to your life

- Volunteering is good for your mind and body
  - Helps counteract the effects of stress, anger and anxiety
  - Combats depression
  - Creates happiness
  - Increases self-confidence
  - Provides a sense of purpose
  - Stay physically healthy

Opportunities to Connect in our community -

Community theater- https://www.rosetheatremaryville.org/

Public Library-https://maryvillepubliclibrary.lib.mo.us/

Community Services-https://www.communityservicesinc.org/

New Nodaway Humane Society-https://www.newnodawayhumanesociety.org

Ministry Center-https://www.maryvilleministrycenter.com/

Nodaway County Health Department-https://www.nodawaypublichealth.org/

Nodaway Historical Society-https://nodawaymuseum.wixsite.com/nchs

Senior Center-https://www.nodawayseniors.com/

(And many more)

Building Community Connections

September 2016- Glitz & Glam

Davison named city's first tourism director

April 2022

References

◈ Trackitforward.com

◈ National Service-learning Clearinghouse

◈ https://www.nwmissouri.edu/career/profession-based-learning.htm

◈ Bonwell, C. C., & Eison, J. A. (1991). *Active learning : creating excitement in the classroom*. School of Education and Human Development, George Washington University