Enhance Resident Leadership

Enhancing resident leadership happens at the individual and organizational level. UNP partnerships build the capacity of individuals to inform decisions and become leaders in the community. Partnerships also target systemic change that supports resident-led initiatives.

The following partnerships focused on enhancing individual and organizational leadership capacity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Advocates Network and Class</th>
<th>Neighborhood Democracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Based Research Grant</td>
<td>Resident Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Resident in Action</td>
<td>Westside Leadership Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glendale Mtn. View CLC Research</td>
<td>Westside Studio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grow Your Own Educators</td>
<td>Youth Community Advocates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth Voices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Supporting Resident Leadership and Participation

UNP supports partnerships that build resident and organizational capacity to be decision makers in their neighborhoods, cities, and the state.

*Westside Leadership Institute*

The WLI supports the development of west side resident leaders as catalysts for positive change in their communities. WLI is taught in English and Spanish and offers leadership courses taught by University faculty and community leaders, and connects west side residents to local decision-making bodies, funding sources, and further support. Partners in WLI include The University of Utah Departments of City and Metropolitan Planning, Kem Gardner Policy Institute, and Master of Public Administration; Neighborworks Salt Lake, Salt Lake City School District, and Salt Lake City Mayors office. Resident partners include Cencira, Lourdes, Craig, Corrine, Maria, and Keri. In Fall 2017, 9 community residents and 9 University of Utah students participated in the WLI course. In Spring 2018, 29 residents participated in the course.

2 Mini Grants Awarded

To

WLI Groups

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&
De La Huerta a la Mesa
Pre-Post Tests  WLI participants receive pre/post-test measuring perceived ability in framing a community issue, community leadership, culture and the community, strategizing, managing a meeting, resolving conflict, communication skills, using social media, writing grants, engaging local governments and identifying their leadership style. Scores can range from 11 (not confident in ability in any of the above areas) to 55 (very confident in ability in all areas). See Figure 14 illustrating participant scores in fall and spring cohorts.

Grow Your Own Educators

Grow Your Own Educators (GYOE) is a district-university-community partnership aimed at growing and diversifying the K-12 educator workforce in Utah. GYOE opens up pathways for engaged parents to step into assistant and paraeducator roles in schools, and for paraeducators to earn teaching licenses and become successful classroom teachers. With an emphasis on Title 1 schools in the valley's west side, GYOE lowers the financial and social barriers that members of low-income communities and communities of color face when entering the teaching profession. It is based in best practices in teacher preparation from around the country, and driven by the knowledge that educators who come from the community bring vital skills, understandings, relationships, and commitments to the challenging work of teaching young people.

This year, Grow Your Own Educators facilitated a series of Community Engagement Teams which brought together parents and teachers to plan for next steps with GYOE.

Hartland Resident Committee

The Hartland Partnership Center is overseen by the Resident Committee, which is made up of local resident leaders committed to enhancing the community in which they live. The Resident Committee has many vital roles, primarily serving as a liaison and advocate for bringing the Center and the community into partnerships. Resident Committee members serve as advocates by talking with residents regarding strengths, resources, and needs. They identify means for ensuring classes are culturally appropriate and in line with community values.
Community Advocates
Community Advocates is partnership with long-term goals to increase parent capacity to advocate for themselves, families, and communities. In addition to monthly meetings, community residents also participate in the Community Leadership in Education contract course as a pathway to becoming a community advocate. Through the Community Advocate network and leadership course, parents build their capacity to engage with their children’s schools and build the capacity to build an inclusive community for parents and students.

17 Community residents participated in the Community Leadership in Education contract course in summer 2017.

3 Community advocates went on to higher education following the Leadership in Education course.

9 Community Advocates went on to participate in the Humanities in Focus class following the Leadership in Education course.
The Ripple Effect

Maria Fernanda Pesantez was first connected to UNP through the Thayne Center at SLCC. Maria is a student at SLCC, a mother, and part of a SLCC organization that supports new Latinx students. Maria went to the Thayne center to earn an AmeriCorps education award, and for her community site chose the Our CASA partnership. She worked with Paul Kuttner to get involved at the Our CASA at Northwest Middle School, where she did outreach to parents to let them know about the space. Through that involvement, Maria got connected with Alma Yanagui and the Community Advocates working at Northwest, and began attending Community Advocate meetings. At those meetings she learned about WLI, and joined the Spanish WLI class. In that class she worked with some other students to develop a workshop for parents around accessing college, which they presented in the Glendale/Mountain View CLC, called Fortaleciendo Familias Latinas (strengthening latinx families). Now she is working with Jarred Martinez and our youth center coordinators to develop college access workshops for the youth at the Hartland Youth Center, and also to finish out her AmeriCorps hours as a youth center volunteer. Meanwhile, Maria has been transitioning to the UofU to study social work, and so we’ve connected her to Julie Rabb and the walk in center. Maybe we’ll see her again come practicum time.