

Funding for Community Engaged Courses

Proposal for Support of an Existing Community-Engaged Course

E. Franklin Dukes, Ph.D.

PLAC 5240, "Collaborative Planning for Sustainability: Equitable Collaboration," is a 3-credit graduate course in the School of Architecture. The class proposes that communities can be made more equitable, resilient, and sustainable by active participation of community members practicing collective caring and self-governance. Students develop confidence in their ability to understand complex community issues, to assess the strengths and weaknesses of existing community decision processes, and to design and conduct equitable collaboration including authentic community meetings, transformative community dialogues, and powerful community collaborative change processes.

HEARR (Health Equity and Access in Rural Regions) is a group of community members who have come together with the goal of improving the health and well-being of residents in Southern Albemarle, Buckingham, Fluvanna, and Nelson counties. I have been working with them since early 2018. I have had two class projects with HEARR in prior years, including the development of a mindfulness curriculum that is currently being implemented.

For the Fall 2022 class, HEARR proposes to develop relationships with regional organizations to expand the Healthy Lifestyle Educational project which is currently being developed in partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Yancey Food Pantry Project, and the Yancey Community Center. Other partners include the Blue Ridge Health District and Albemarle County Parks & Recreation.

Students will work with the HEARR Board to clarify project goals, conduct interviews with key regional parties, and develop an equitable collaboration plan for action. They will attend meetings and community events as part of the outreach.

This proposal has the enthusiastic endorsement of the cochairs, Peggy Scott, RN, Esmont, and Nancy Gill, former mayor, Scottsville. The full Board will be discussing and offering a formal endorsement of the project at its next meeting on April 12.

The funding will be used as follows, subject to review by the HEARR Board:

- Student and instructor mileage: approximately \$250
- Community member outreach (incentives for participation in interviews, meetings, and community events, likely grocery gift cards): \$1,000
- Meeting expenses (room rental, copying, flip charts/markers, refreshments): \$750

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Email statement of support:

April 11, 2022

To Whom it May Concern:

Health Equity and Access in Rural Regions (HEARR) is a community-oriented organization with the goal to improve access to necessary resources for our rural residents from Southern Albemarle, Eastern Fluvanna, Northern Buckingham, Western Nelson Counties and the Town of Scottsville.

To further our collaborative efforts with local community, faith-based, arts, municipal, and civic groups it is important to incorporate into our process a method to follow which will lead to sustainability.

We look forward to working with Frank Dukes and the graduate students in developing this process.

Sincerely,

Peggy Scott and Nancy Gill

Diagram of Collaborative Change

