COLLEGE/UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (CUPP)

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COLLEGE/UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (CUPP)

BACKGROUND

- Met In Hayneville, AL
- Limitations on small communities seeking funding; lack of technical support
- Detail created in August 2011 to explore extent of the issue, and possible solution
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HOW IT WORKS – COLLEGE/UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

- Communities are identified for support by federal agencies; colleges and universities; or self identified, based on criteria.
- Issues are identified by the CUPP Program in partnership with the community.
- Local university is identified that can assist the community via CUPP.
- Universities agree to which issues they will provide voluntary assistance, and assign the students to assist in providing the technical assistance
- Each participating school arraigns for academic credits to be earned by these students for their efforts
- The federal government (project manager) will coordinate technical assistance to the schools to assist them in helping communities as needed.

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PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Creative, collaborative effort between underserved communities, and local colleges and universities to provide consistent technical support at no cost to the communities; schools participate on a voluntary basis.
- Students gain valuable experiential learning opportunity that serves as a resume builder, and enhances obtaining job opportunities upon graduation.
- Underserved communities benefit from the investment of innovative technical assistance and gain a consistent source of technical assistance and planning.
- The presence of college students in poor communities serves as an inspirational model for children in those communities.
- Federal agencies gain the opportunity to expand the support provided to communities with no need for additional staff.

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PROGRAM PARTNERS

Academic Institutions

- Participation from sixty-two schools in twenty states.
- Working with tribal colleges; HBCUs; Hispanic schools; majority schools; large public schools; private schools; and community colleges

Currently partnering with the following Departments/Agencies/Organizations:

- Department of Agriculture (Nationwide)
- Department of Energy (Nationwide)
- Department of Interior (Nationwide)
- Department of Education
- EPA Regions 3, 5, 6, 8 and 1
- Office of Public Health, HHS, Region 4
- HHS, Region 6
- National Interagency Working Group for Environmental Justice
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- American Geophysics Union's Thriving Earth Exchange
- Community Engineering Corps

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- 60 colleges onboard supporting 58 communities (including six Tribal chapterhouses) in 20 states; expect to add four West Coast and Mountain West states this year.
- Program has completed or is scheduled to complete over 120 projects impacting the lives of over **2,700,000 people**
- Value of work done in the communities from 2013 to 2017 is over **$15,600,000** with**; Return On Investment (ROI) of over 10 to 1**
- Four federal agencies onboard to support program nationwide (EPA, DOI, USDA, and DOE (Energy); Department of Education and HUD reviewing similar agreements
- Two non-governmental partnerships that have supported the program projects at no cost; Community Engineering Corps, and the American Geophysics Union (Thriving Earth Exchange)

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CUPP PROGRAM- PROJECTS

The following efforts has already been done:

- Development of natural resources projects and zoning plans the redevelopment of a Superfund site at Navassa, NC (completed)
- Development of an alternate Transportation Plan for the Selma to Montgomery Trail that includes revitalizing five brownfield sites as bust stops; Tuskegee University trained to as in economic redevelopment of other sites along the Trail (completed)
- Development of a pilot project to look at lead issues in drinking water in poor public schools in three states (in progress in Alabama; done in North Carolina and Georgia)
- Evaluation of factors contributing to high rates of asthma in poor section of the city of Macon, GA (completed)
- Development of coastal sustainability plans for coastal Georgia (pending)
- Feasibility study with options to address erosion along the Alabama River impacting the Edmund Pettis Bridge (completed) Analysis of county wide storm water management systems, and recommendations for improvement in Pleasant View, TN (completed)
- Identification of permanent home for the Environmental Justice Academy (completed)

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CUPP PROJECTS (cont.)

- Development of an area-wide redevelopment plan with the city of Gainesville, FL and community groups in Superfund site area (in progress)
- Interns to assist in drinking water plant operations in East Point, GA. (in progress)
- Development of redevelopment plan for the wood treater Superfund site in Pensacola, FL (in progress)
- Reducing the cost of disposing of sewage sludge by using solar system to remove excess water in Darien, GA. (completed)
- Designing a city hall in Midway, GA. to include the use of solar panels; green roofs; bio swales to handle storm water (completed)
- A heath survey to examine the high incident of cancer rates in Pineville, LA (completed)
- Development of a redevelopment plan for a Superfund site in Knoxville, TN (in progress)
- Development of maker space at San Juan College for the city of Farmington, NM (San Juan, Drexel University) (completed)

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CUPP PROJECTS (cont.)

Upcoming projects:

- Mapping and redesign of water system, Central, SC
- Health education for minority youth in Navassa, NC (UNC W)
- SWOT analysis for the city of Whitehall, AL
- Conducting hydrological study and developing flooding mitigation strategies in Northern Louisiana
- Capital equipment and building maintenance plans for the city of Princeville, NC
- Recommendations on how to improve the utility infrastructure of the city of East Point, GA
- Addressing community issues for twenty-one different communities in the Georgia in partnership with the Georgia Municipal Association
- Addressing sewage issues in Black Belt of Alabama
- Design a downtown outdoor plaza and master plan trails for the city of Wahalla.

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PENDING COLLBORATIONS:

- **Reworking on the National MOUs with DOI and USDA**. In partnership with members of the National IWG, MOUs with DOI and USDA are being redone to focus on collaboration primarily on the CUPP Program.
- **Supporting long term recovery efforts with FEMA**. FEMA has requested assistance to support long term recovery efforts in Princeville, NC, Puerto Rico, and Northern Louisiana. Two schools have agreed to assist Princeville, and discussions are taking place with LSU in Baton Rouge and Grambling State University to support communities in Louisiana.
- **Collaboration with the Department of Education to provide stipends for poor students to participate in the CUPP Program.** A pilot is being developed with Atlanta Metropolitan College to develop a pilot for the Department of Education's Student Assistance Program and CUPP to provide a way for poor students participate in the CUPP Program. (Pilot has been successfully executed; expanding this effort to four other schools).
- **MOUs with HUD and the Department of Education.** HUD and the Department of Education are reviewing the current MOUs with other federal agencies to consider joining the other agencies in the nationwide use of the program.

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PENDING COLLBORATIONS (cont.)

- **Increasing participation of minority communities in National Parks and expanding environmental education in minority communities.** Florida International University has agreed to use their currently funded outdoors outreach program for poor school age children in the cities of Liberty City, Overtown and Little Haiti, FL to expose them to National Parks. The Southeast Region of the National Park Service has agreed that park rangers will provide environmental education of protecting waterways and fresh drinking water sources, as well as other children's health information to the children as a part of this quarterly outreach program. Draft of project, which includes environmental education, has been received and reviewed. Project has received some attention at DOI Headquarters, and DOI requested the inclusion of recreational opportunities, which has been added. Project is expected to begin in October 2018.
- **Addressing Water Infrastructure issues.** Western Kentucky University will be working with the city of Glasgow, KY to addressing issues with their drinking water infrastructure, in partnership wit the Community Engineering Corps (CEC). This will be a pilot effort with the CEC

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Students from Tuskegee University working to get public input for bus stops for the alternate transportation project

Students from Florida International University working on food garden in Medley, FL

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Students from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College working to address bias issues in rural communities.

Wayne Johnson, Water and Sewage Manager for the City of Darien *(left)* and John Rayfield, student from Georgia Southern *(right),* holding one of a series of solar stills used to reduce water in the sewage sludge. Project used as a practicum project for John's M.S. in Sustainability.

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Mayor and other members of city staff from Newington, GA, discussing redeveloping of old industrial sites at Savannah State and Georgia Southern Universities

Students from University of Arkansas presenting reuse options for an old abandoned building in Pineville, AR

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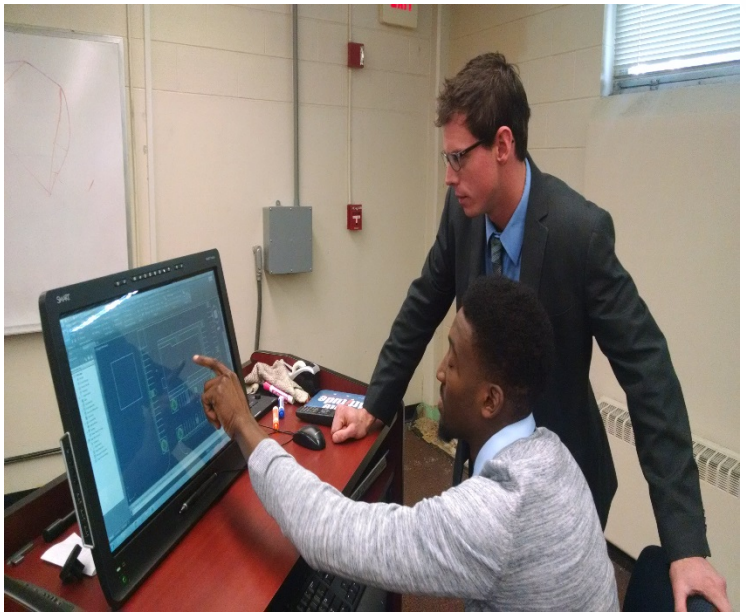
Georgia Tech students studying the Alabama River as part of a study on the erosion impact the river is having on the foundation of the Edmund Pettis Bridge.



Professor and student from Savannah State University working on design of multi-purpose municipal building for the city of Midway, GA. Building will house all city functions, and will include the use of solar panels and recycled materials to reduce cost to seventy percent of original cost.

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Pilot agricultural project being done by Tuskegee University in the city of Shorter, AL. Mayor Powell is driving the tractor, and the Dean of Tuskegee AG School is on her right. Pilot grew so many watermelons, once quota share was sold, city made thousands selling from roadside stands

- UNC Wilmington teaching the citizens of Navassa, NC about how contamination affects the natural environment

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Any Questions?

Let us know your thoughts, comments and or concerns

Email: Burns.Michael@epa.gov

Or

Call: 404-562-8228