

## **Strategic University Partnerships**

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A citywide problem property audit or other equally daunting task can and has been effectively executed using a collaboration of youth, senior citizens and university personnel.

A University+ Volunteers + Technology = A successful community project.

Realizing that people learn in different ways and that the “C” students may very well just need an atmosphere that allows them to be self-directed was the seed behind an educational initiative called EAST. Once freed from the confines of a more structured learning environment, students are free to explore how to give back to their community through self-directed projects.

- Using data to drive community development initiatives and measure impact helps effectively target resources.
- Empowering residents of blighted neighborhoods through a stable partnership with a university or other source of expertise can result in a richer more comprehensive data set.
- Engaging youth, technology and residents of blighted neighborhoods to collaborate is a very empowering way to create value.
- Creating partnerships between actively engaged students and communities results in significant economic impact from the resulting products.
- Collaboration leverages available resources, engages community members and results in better ,more comprehensive results.

### **Memorable Quote**

“We created a winning combination by pairing seniors, youth and university staff to do the groundwork.”

-- Tk Buchanan

### **Conclusion and remaining questions**

Collaboration results in better leveraging of available resources and enhances the end product.

Engaging youth and senior citizens is critical to success. Seniors’ institutional knowledge combined with the use of technology by youth, facilitated by a third party, results in a richer outcome and significant economic impact.

How do we measure the economic impact of these collaborations? How do we replicate and expand projects that engage all sectors of the community and return value to the community?