

Academic Outreach for Optimum Impact

by Frances Yates, Library Director, Indiana University East Campus Library

Academic outreach is a vital service that enables a university to have a positive impact in its community and promotes higher education while helping prepare students for success. The IU East Library is fortunate to be integrated into a campus culture that welcomes partnerships for attaining the goal of continuing to increase the number of community members who can access the opportunities a college education can provide.

In addition to course offerings, academic outreach can range from faculty involvement in action research in the community, to provision of entrepreneurship and leadership programs, to community engagement through service-learning projects.

The mission of the IU East Campus Library is "to provide resources and services that support the academic engagement and research of diverse participants in our teaching and learning community." That learning community extends to the K-12 population and we are excited to be involved in several literacy initiatives.



Early College is a program for middle school students who have been selected to participate using the criteria of academics, motivation, and creativity. It focuses on first-generation students with high potential to go to college. The role of the IU East Library staff is to work with these students to engage in research using reliable resources as part of their project-based learning. Students are introduced to a college research culture that exposes them to critical thinking about information, and provides them with strategies to increase the level of their information literacy.



The Boys and Girls Club of Wayne County provides academic enrichment during an eight-week summer program. Experiential Learning Scholars (ELS) from IU East tutored sixty students in grades 1-8, with a documented reading increase of 63%. The ELS program was jointly coordinated by the Campus Center for Service Learning and the Campus Library. The Library provided on-site training and involved the IU East students in a grant-funded project to create "Connections Kits" comprised of books and supplies for learning activities.



Third Grade Academy focuses on reading enhancement for students who are not reading at grade level. Groups of 9-12 students spend four weeks at locations throughout the county, such as museums, environmental centers, and the IU East campus. The Library provides space for them as a base of operations as they explore campus resources and also spend lots of time

reading. Our collection of children's literature offers an ample array of books and it's a pleasure to see students comfortably reading in library spaces such as our "Library Living Room."



Communities in Schools (CIS) <http://www.ciswayneco.org> "surrounds students with support" to create a community of caring adults who work with educators. CIS brings community resources to students and families through after-school programs. For two summers the IU East Library has hosted the "Amazing Race: Library Edition." The summer adventure for 2012 will have a Zombies theme.



Girls, Inc. <http://www.girlsincwayne.org> has a mission to "inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold." The IU East Library co-hosted with Admissions a careers event for first graders and also provided resources for an "Influential Women of Faith" service-learning program. Expanding our role this summer, we are planning more programs that will be part of their constructive learning environment.

R.E.A.D.-TV @ IUE (<http://iue.libguides.com/READtv>) Bringing the classroom to the community, the Library is producing R.E.A.D.-TV @ IUE. This will be a children's television show to promote the theme "Read, Explore, Ask, Discover." Beginning in summer 2012, it will be filmed at the studio of WCTV on the campus of IU East and in the community of Wayne County, IN. This academic outreach brings together students, faculty, staff and community partners.

The impact of these programs can be measured in terms of increased quantity and levels of reading, improved socialization skills, and overall academic gains. But perhaps more importantly, these young participants can enhance their comfort level being on a college campus. Many of them had not aspired to higher education; these on-campus experiences can help plant an idea in their minds that "Yes, I CAN go to college!" And when they do, of course we hope to see them in the Library!