



## Spring 2016 Projects

### Comprehensive Community Solutions

**Mission:** To bring about fundamental transformation of neighborhoods, communities and the circumstances of those who live there, through programs and services which emphasize building human capital, communities and affordable housing.

**Project:** The group of students will conduct market analysis on surrounding counties engaged in deconstruction as one aspect of a business plan for a deconstruction/reuse/repurposing social enterprise. This deliverable will be formatted in a report and will come after extensive analysis of our current deconstruction efforts, along with the research concerning demand of deconstruction in neighboring counties, with goals of growth in mind.

### Institute for Southern Studies

**Mission:** To expose injustice, strengthen democracy and build a community for change in the South. We publish *Facing South*, the South's leading online magazine with in-depth coverage of important issues in the region. Through our media, research and outreach programs, we connect people with information, ideas and resources to create a better future in the South

**Project:** Each week, the Institute reaches 20,000+ readers with our research and analysis about issues of justice, democracy and the environment in the South. While we have some basic information about our readers, we'd like to better understand who our readers are, including what they value about our coverage, what issues are most important to them, and how they use our work. With the help of DISI, we'd like to craft a survey to gather this information to improve our work and coverage of the South.

### NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence

**Mission:** NCCADV leads the states' movement to end domestic violence and to enhance work with survivors through collaborations, innovative trainings, prevention, technical assistance, state policy development, and legal advocacy.

**Project:** Domestic Violence Service Providers are finding it difficult to send staff and volunteers to traditional in-person training and are therefore requesting that NCCADV offer webinars and other e-learning opportunities. DISI can help NCCADV advance our

Training Institute by increasing our capacity to utilize webinars and other e-learning opportunities.

### **NC Commission on Racial and Ethnical Disparities in the Criminal Justice System**

**Mission:** To identify, document, and alleviate racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

**Project:** Help NC-CRED develop a strategic plan for mid-2016 and beyond. Our last planning document was created in 2012, and our focus has changed slightly since then. We would benefit from guidance as to how our resources would best be utilized, what projects are best suited to our unique group, and what concrete steps we need to take in the near future.

### **NC Public Interest Research Group**

**Mission:** NCPIRG is a nonpartisan statewide organization that works to make sure that North Carolina's democratic government works for everyone. We work on issues like voting rights, environmental protection, reducing the influence of money in politics, consumer protection, and hunger and homelessness, all the while encouraging full participation in our democracy. For nearly 40 years students working with their campus PIRG chapters have been making a real difference in people's lives and winning concrete changes to build a better world.

**Project:** NCPIRG needs additional funding to grow and fulfill its mission but we are struggling to receive additional funding for our democracy and youth civic engagement work. We have a big opportunity to play a critical role in increasing civic engagement, activism and voting among North Carolina's youth, especially on 4-year and 2-year college campuses.

However, we lack a sustainable fundraising plan to maintain our current campus organizing beyond July 2016. DISI can help us 1) identify new foundation targets (both traditional funders that regularly fund democracy and civic engagement, but also non-traditional funders that may only consider us under good circumstances) and 2) explore the possibility of regaining PIRG's traditional source of funding: student fees and student government allocations. DISI would be tasked with research and helping us develop a plan for raising funds.

### **Summer Science Program**

**Mission:** SSP's mission is to inspire exceptionally talented and motivated high school students from around the world to accelerate their intellectual and social development. Since 1959, our residential program has immersed students in a challenging curriculum using team-based, hands-on research to solve a central scientific problem. We create a cultural environment of excellence, collaboration, creativity, and honor, and push our students beyond anything they have previously experienced.

**Project:** There are many programs for gifted students; how does one measure their impact when those students are likely to succeed anyway? How do we know we have succeeded in “accelerating their intellectual and social development”? Alumni themselves understand what that means, but when we approach outside entities such as foundations and corporations for funding, first-person testimonials are not enough; they require objective, quantitative assessments of impact.

Our DISI team will research appropriate assessment methodologies for a non-credit enrichment program, then based on that research and the nature of our program, deliver a specific plan for assessing SSP’s impact.

Successful project completion may lead to further program evaluation work appropriate for Masters Projects and Theses

### **Urban Ministries of Durham**

**Mission:** We connect with the community to end homelessness and fight poverty by offering food, shelter, and a future to neighbors in need.

**Project:** The Food Pantry and Clothing Closet were developed in those early years by a group of United Methodist churches who observed a need for grocery assistance. While there have been slight changes over the years, we feel the Food Pantry operations are long overdue to be reevaluated and updated to ensure that we are still meeting the highest needs of our neighbors in the most efficient and equitable way (the UMD homeless shelter has recently expanded its aim from simply offering shelter for the night to seeking to work with clients to end their homelessness, for instance). As the public resource climate, public policies and the economy change in the City of Durham, we would like you to reevaluate our systems and processes and recommend service delivery model improvements to maximize the benefit to needy neighbors.

### **Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry**

**Mission:** Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry, Inc. (WARM) unites people of compassion to rebuild homes and restore hope for our low-income neighbors, many of whom are elderly or disabled, and enables them to live safely and independently in their own homes and communities.

**Project (Continuation):** Students will help build the infrastructure for conducting in-depth case studies to measure the impact of WARM’s mission on resident health. Tasks may include guiding the process of development of qualitative and quantitative evaluation questions, developing performance measurements, creating the necessary procedures and forms to share information with community paramedics and other health providers and conducting benchmark case study interviews (if time allows).

### **Youth Education for Savings**

**Mission:** The Youth Education for Savings Consortium promotes financial education among children in disadvantaged communities to facilitate the creation of personal

finance management skills needed for educational and entrepreneurial opportunities, community stabilization and development, and community stewardship.

**Project:** The YES Consortium has a need to increase its capacity in the current service area to provide adequate resources to current partners. As the organization's services grow in popularity, the organization's volunteer force needs to grow and YES needs to be able to measure its impact. DISI can assist YES in building capacity and implementing strong, quantitative methods to measure its impact on youth, partners, and the community.