



# Effective Integration of Community into Teaching and Learning Practices

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# UW System Institute for Urban Education

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- Phase I Goal: to give University system students a chance to blend theory and practice by teaching in the Lakeside School District which is a large urban district



# Program Overview

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Full time student teaching in an LPS School

Weekly seminar focusing on urban school,  
culture and community

Community Involvement Activity

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# Why Community Involvement?

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- Villegas and Lucas (2002) “one goal that is often present in the use of various instructional strategies in teacher education courses is to expand the sociocultural consciousness of prospective teachers, to help them understand that ‘one’s world view is not universal but is profoundly influenced by a variety of factors, chief among them race/ethnicity, social class and gender” (p. 27).



## More Reasons Why...

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### Community involvement

- Barbara Seidl (2002), “learn about a range of cultural experiences and norms within a specific community and begin to situate education within an understanding of the goals and expectations the community has for the children and for education” (p. 170). She continues, “Culture within this understanding is not something one reads about but something that can be witnessed, lived and learned” (p. 170).

The logo features a stylized city skyline with several buildings of varying heights and a prominent tower, all rendered in black. This is set against a white background that is partially enclosed by a dark teal circular shape on the left side of the slide.

## Framework: Equal Status (Seidl)

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- Barbara Seidl (2002), on her program's partnership with an urban community. She writes, "We have also attempted to avoid the traditional authoritative stance universities occupy in such partnerships and the damaging and exploitive effects universities, and particularly, research institutions, have on culturally diverse communities" (p. 423).



## What type of activity?

- The program works with agencies that can give us experiences that promote

*AUTHENTIC or GENIUNE  
INTERACTION*

# What do those experiences look like?

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- ❑ Thanksgiving Food Drive
- ❑ Dia de los Ninos
- ❑ Salvation Army coat shopper
  
- ❑ Today's Focus:

*GUEST HOUSE OF  
LAKESIDE*



# Guest House

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- Imagine . . . . .
  - It's about 18 below wind chill
  - It's dark, very dark
  - The block has no single family homes, no porch lights, no one sitting outside
  - Cars are not going by
  - The sign for the shelter is small and broken
  - The block looks deserted
  - YOU FEEL . . . . .

A stylized black silhouette of a city skyline with several buildings of varying heights and a large semi-circular archway on the right. The logo is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping a teal circular graphic.

# Director Perspective

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- ❑ I've gone too far
- ❑ I'm the director
- ❑ For goodness sakes be comfortable
- ❑ What are they learning
- ❑ I am so proud of them



# Student Perspective

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- ❑ Preconceived Notions
  - ❑ Should have paid more attention to details!
- ❑ Initial Thoughts and Feelings
  - ❑ First one there
  - ❑ Entering the building
  - ❑ Out of my comfort zone
- ❑ Falling into that “natural leadership role”
  - ❑ Feeling more at ease
- ❑ Interactions with the men and staff



# Positive Impact

- ❑ Shift in perspective
- ❑ Hits close to home
- ❑ Humbling experience
  - ❑ Thankful for the opportunity
  - ❑ Eye-opener
  - ❑ Grateful for all I have
  - ❑ Recommend to all

A stylized black silhouette of a city skyline with several buildings of varying heights and a large, thin, curved line arching over them. This logo is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping a teal circular graphic.

# Influential Experience

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- Influencing my role in:
  - The classroom
  - Weekly seminars
  - The middle class
  - My daily life



“Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.”

-From “Our Greatest Fear”  
by Marianne Williamson  
(quoted by Nelson Mandela)



“The past cannot be changed, the future is still in your power.”

-Hugh White



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“Intelligence plus character –  
that is the goal of true education.”

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



# Discussion/Questions

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- ❑ Similar experiences to share
- ❑ Questions???
  
- ❑ Thank you!