Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing with the Community Nursing Center

Creating Healthy Nutrition and Access in the Inner City with Community Gardening

ECBP-12-16: Increase the inclusion of core clinical prevention and population health content in health professions education; the Healthy People 2020 objective addressed by the community gardening program is nutrition and weight status. Students from SIUE Nursing School performed a Community Health Living Index (CHLI) assessment in order to implement a healthy lifestyle and activity program in a zip code.

Working with other universities, nursing students were able to participate in multi-discipline, community based approaches to renovate an existing greenhouse and the building of raised growing beds. A formalized resident and academic partnership was formed and named the Green Partnership. The partnership is active within the community with many activities: health fairs, planting demonstrations, mentoring new gardeners, produce give-a-ways, support to homeless shelters with produce and education to children on gardening.