Community/Public Service Worksheet

Service Category: Community Empowerment Programs

Title: 57 Miles: A Perry County Partnership

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Francis Marion High School
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Renaissance Marion
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Program Description: 57 Miles: A Perry County Partnership engages The University of Alabama Honors students in programming that supports the cities of Marion and Uniontown, our neighbors 57 miles down the road. The efforts are designed to improve the educational, economic development, health care and community landscape in Perry County. The Partnership coordinates University colleges, divisions and departments to provide programming in the form of performances, discussions, exhibitions and presentations.

Objectives/Outcomes: The program was established in 2013-2014 as an expansion of the successful 3-week residential program known as The Black Belt Experience for University Fellows. Honors College Administrators wanted to expand the impact of the experience and to create a year-round presence in the community. To that end, a program attracting incoming freshmen to

Assessment Measures: Since the program is still in the beginning stages, assessment measures have not be established but will likely focus on participation numbers, students involved and impact to the community.

Results: We are earning the right to grow our impact in the community. We take on more meaningful collaborations with Perry County each semester. As part of the commitment to economic development, a group of students will open Pie Chart Planning in Fall 2014 in a local storefront as a resource for local business owners to develop business plans and

Conclusions: Our collaboration with Perry County provides life-changing experiences for our students and campus partners. The investment of our time and energy in that community expands the University's reach and scope of influence.

Improvement Actions: We are always seeking feedback and candid assessments of our efforts in the area so that we can make effective course corrections and maintain our level of influence in the area and continue to create opportunities for service-learning for our students.