THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS
HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES
NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Adam’s Mark Hotel
Dallas, Texas
October 17-19, 2007

A Best Practice Presentation
By:

Dr. Eddie B. Thomas
Associate Vice President
Community Outreach Programs
Stillman College
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35405
THE STILLMAN COLLEGE PERSONA
COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

“MAKING A QUALITATIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY”

Partnerships for Progress

Dr. Ernest McNealey
President

Dr. Eddie B. Thomas
Associate Vice President
Community Outreach Programs
“As we strive to make Stillman the very best liberal arts college it can be we intend to share our excellence with the community around us.” “Rather than simply being a light upon a hill, we will become an illuminating beacon for the community’s effort to improve its quality of life.”

July, 1997
STILLMAN COLLEGE

EXCELLENCE – TRADITION – VISION
Stillman College, a historically black liberal arts college is located in West Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The College was founded in 1876. It is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools located at 2866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia. The College is authorized by the Southern Association of Colleges Commission, the Alabama State Board of Education and the governing Board of Trustees to Award Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees.

According to U.S. News and World Report 2007, Stillman is ranked 25th as a top tier liberal arts college in the Southeast.
TRADITION
EXCELLENCE
VISION
THE LEARNING TREE
STILLMAN COLLEGE
COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS
(A BEACON FOR THE COMMUNITY)

THE STATEMENT
At Stillman, Community Outreach is seen as the positive effect the College has on improving the quality of life in the communities. To this end, Stillman offers special and unique opportunities to provide meaningful learning experiences through community outreach initiatives. The underlying premise of Community Outreach at Stillman College is to empower communities and individuals to move toward self-sufficiency through a series of learning experiences that improve quality living.

PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT
To enhance the Community Outreach efforts, Stillman has implemented partnerships with community agencies that provide services to the College’s outreach initiatives at no cost to the programs.
CORE PARTNERS
Tuscaloosa Housing Authority
Maude Whatley Health Care
Tuscaloosa City and County Schools
Juvenile and Family Court
U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U. S. Department of Justice
U. S. Department of Labor and Employment Training Administration
DCH Regional Medical Center
Indian Rivers Mental Health Center
Tuscaloosa City and County Governments
Businesses and Industries
State Director of the Governor’s Commission on Historically Black Colleges and Universities
Shelton State Community College
The University of Alabama
West Alabama Regional Planning Commission
Tuscaloosa City Police Department

By working together with partners, Stillman is making a difference in the community for the Common Good.
THE PARTNERSHIP
THE WEST TUSCALOOSA INITIATIVE

The Target Area
A Brief Demographic Analysis
Census 2000 Data

In West Tuscaloosa a high percentage of the neighborhoods are infested with dilapidated houses. The zoning and housing patterns are despicable to say the least. Only one major grocery store exists in the community. There are no banks and only one fire station to serve more than 12,000 residents. A Major junkyard infested with environmental hazards sits astride the community and very serious drug use/abuse and trafficking problems exist. These factors are devastating the quality of life in the Westside Tuscaloosa neighborhoods. West Tuscaloosa comprises census tracts 117.01, 117.03 and a portion of 118 and 119.

Chart I provides a comparative analysis of at least six demographic indicators relative to West Tuscaloosa, Alabama (the target area).
The colored areas (116, 117.01, 117.03, 118 and 119) represent the areas served by the Community Outreach Unit at Stillman College.
# Chart I: A Brief Demographic Look at West Tuscaloosa, Alabama

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tuscaloosa</th>
<th>West Tuscaloosa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population:</td>
<td>77,906</td>
<td>10,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>33,287 (43%)</td>
<td>9,811 (97%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>42,143 (54%)</td>
<td>White (176)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2,476 (2%)</td>
<td>96 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Housing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Housing Units:</td>
<td>34,857</td>
<td>5,630 (16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner Occupancy:</td>
<td>14,973 (43%)</td>
<td>2,585 (46%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Value of an Owner Occupied House in Tuscaloosa:</td>
<td>$99,600</td>
<td>Median Value of an Owner Occupied House in West Tuscaloosa:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White:</td>
<td>$119,200</td>
<td>White:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black:</td>
<td>$59,325</td>
<td>Black:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Occupancy:</td>
<td>16,408 (47%)</td>
<td>2,438 (43%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Family Income:</td>
<td>$41,753</td>
<td>$25,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below Poverty:</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Educational Attainment for the Population 25 years and Over</strong></td>
<td>(Does Not Include Post-Secondary Education)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GED or High School Diploma</td>
<td>10,273</td>
<td>2,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th Grade, no diploma</td>
<td>1,846</td>
<td>679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th Grade</td>
<td>1,728</td>
<td>691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th Grade</td>
<td>1,798</td>
<td>10th Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th Grade</td>
<td>914</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th &amp; 7th Grade</td>
<td>1,067</td>
<td>8th &amp; 7th Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Grade or less</td>
<td>1,883</td>
<td>467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6th Grade or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chart II shows data describing the four targeted census tracts and demographic data of Census tracts 117.01, 117.03, 118 and 119. The eight demographic indicators clearly show the need to address the serious social and economic disparities existing in West Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

## Chart II

**Economic and Social Dysfunctions Existing in the Targeted Area**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Tract</th>
<th>117.01</th>
<th>117.03</th>
<th>118</th>
<th>119</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>2,812</td>
<td>3,900</td>
<td>3,380</td>
<td>5,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Below Poverty Level</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than H. S. Diploma</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Single Female H-O-H</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households No Worker</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Assistance</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Capita Income</td>
<td>$4,949</td>
<td>$6,378</td>
<td>$5,984</td>
<td>$8,150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Alabama Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2004
THE NEED TO IMPROVE
THE NEIGHBORHOOD
A CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Decadence and dilapidation have no places in West Tuscaloosa or Tuscaloosa County. The Stillman College Community Outreach Program seeks to equip residents with skills to move toward self-sufficiency and solve community problems through Education and economic transformation. Based upon historical and current data regarding the target area, programs are developed and implemented to address the short and long term needs of West Tuscaloosa residents. Some of the programs are listed below.

**PROGRAMS**
1. Job Readiness and Job Placement
2. Student Tutorial Activities
3. Affordable Housing
4. Workforce Investment
5. Family Development and Family Affairs
6. Wellness Programs
7. Senior Citizens Programs
8. Basic and Advanced Computer Training
9. Adult Learning and GED classes
10. Todays Women Program
11. Home Improvement Activities
12. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Currently, Stillman operates three Community Based Learning Centers and one Family Development Center on campus in partnership with Public Housing Partners.
The Centers are located at:

*McKenzie Court Public Housing*
*Branscomb Apartments*
*Hay Court Public Housing*
*Creekwood Village Apartments*
*Stillman College Family Development Center*

For Additional Information
You May Contact
The Community Outreach Office at
(205) 366-8848

All programs are provided at no cost to participants. Interested persons are encouraged to call the Community Learning Centers to enroll in programs. All Centers are computerized with appropriate learning activities.
COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER
COMPUTERIZED TUTORIAL CLASS
SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAM
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT EMPLOYEES
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
HOME OWNERSHIP

Ms. Daisy Butler
Program Participant
YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
(John Stallworth, Speaker)
IT’S A FAMILY AFFAIR
CREEKWOOD VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK CENTER
HOW EFFECTIVE ARE THESE PROGRAMS?
Since May, 1998 to the present time, the program has received at least six major competitive Best Practices Awards for services to the community:

- The National Association of Black Commissions Award – May, 1998
- The John J. Gunther Best Practice Award – July, 1999
- The National Best Practice Award for Local Service Award – February, 2000
- The Peer to Peer Training Award – May, 2000
- The National Neighborhood Network Center Leadership Award – January, 2001
- The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama Small Business Award – May, 2001

The program assessment data reflects the following general outcomes resulting from program implementation – 1996 – 2006. The overall number of community residents served is more than 5,000. The following actions were taken to meet the needs of residents.

1. Implemented Youth Learning Programs including tutorial program for more than 3,000 youth.
2. Implemented Computer technology training for 600 participants. Seventy-three percent completed the program and demonstrated technology skills.
3. Organized the Stillman College Community Development Corporation who served more than $2,000,000 in small business loans for residents.
4. Assisted in writing business plans for more than 15 small business clients.
5. Renovated at least ten houses and received a donation of an apartment building from a community partner.
6. Established a “one stop” Family Development Center on campus that has served more than 1,000 participants.

7. Implemented a Senior Citizen program that has served more than 270 seniors with activities that include healthy living, home safety, technology and family affairs.

8. Assisted in securing 352 jobs for program participants through job readiness and job placement activities.

9. Implemented Adult Learning Programs for 500 or more in West Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

10. Implemented family affairs programs that have served more than 357 families.

11. Established job counseling programs to assist clients in sustaining jobs. Has counseled and referred more than 826 prospective job seekers.

**Summary Statement**

In a real sense, our yardstick is the extent to which we are able to stimulate fundamental, visible and qualitative changes in the lives of people we serve.
Partnership Effectiveness for Progress
West Tuscaloosa Revitalization
Benchmarks and Progress Initiatives
Major Activities

- The West Tuscaloosa Strategic Planning Sessions
- The Herman Avenue/29th Street Project Completed
- The McKenzie Court Hope VI Project Implemented
- The Community Home Construction Projects
- The Fifteenth Street Beautification Project Completed
- The Renovation and Dedication of the A. L. Freeman Community Park and Recreation Area Completed
- The Gulf State Swimming Pool Completed for all seasons use
- The Mayor’s Pre-Kindergarten Initiative
- The Renovation of the Weaver-Bolden Public Library
- The Complete Renovation of Shelton State Community College—C. A. Fredd Campus
- The Continuous Demolition of substandard housing
- The Continuous Implementation of the Stillman College/Tuscaloosa Housing Authority Community Learning Center Educational Programs
The Removal of a major automobile junkyard near Hay Court Public Housing
The Addition to the Maude L. Whatley Health Center (for Dental Care)
The Beginning of Construction Preparation for Westlawn Middle School
The Addition to the McDonald Hughes Center
The Engagement of Community Residents in the Solution of Internal Problems
The Beginning of Site Preparation for the New Fire Station near Fifteenth Street and Greensboro Avenue

These benchmarks represent short- and long-range strategic activities designed to engage residents in partnerships to improve the quality of life in West Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
At Stillman, Community Outreach is seen as the positive effect the College has on improving the quality of life in the communities which the College serves. To this end, Stillman offers special and unique opportunities to provide meaningful learning experiences through community outreach initiatives. The underlying premise of Community Outreach at Stillman College is to empower communities and individuals to move toward self-sufficiency through a series of learning activities that improve quality living experiences.
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