The Columbus-Athens Schweitzer Fellows Program

Linden Documentary Project

Purpose
Melissa addressed community empowerment by working with underserved youth. She partnered with the Greater Linden Development Corporation and the Linden-McKinley STEM Academy.

Under Melissa’s direction, 8th grade students conducted video interviews of local residents, businesses, and community agencies to learn about their community’s history and environmental racism in their neighborhood.

Objectives
- Empower students to influence neighborhood ownership, responsibility for the residents, and their property
- Address academic common core standards in a creative way
- Help students learn critical thinking skills
- Facilitate in young people the awareness that they have the ability to create change—even when others believe that they are unable

Outcomes
Students interviewed the Ohio EPA, Columbus Health Department, and the Kirwan Institute on Race and Ethnicity. They learned of the high rates of prostate cancer, asthma and other illnesses in their neighborhood connected to environmental racism.

Additionally, with Ohio State cartography students, Linden students created digital maps to offer Linden residents and visitors a resource for historical landmarks, health and human services, and sites of activism.

Melissa R. Crum
College of Arts and Sciences

“Start early to instill in your students awareness that they are on this earth to help and serve others; that is as important to pass on to them as knowledge.”
—Albert Schweitzer, MD

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