



Best Practices in UWEX Service-Learning

Potosi Revitalization project Cooperative Extension

Completing homework assignments for class is one thing. Helping a whole town while you're at it is quite another. University of Wisconsin-Platteville students from a variety of disciplines were involved in a community partnership project in Potosi, a village of approximately 800 people in southwest Wisconsin.

The Grant County UW-Extension office and the mayor of Potosi contacted UW-Platteville to assist the small town in preparing for major tourist growth. The old Potosi Brewery is being renovated, and the town was picked to become the home of the National Brewery Museum of the American Brewiana Association, beating out Milwaukee and St. Louis, Mo. Students from the UWP engineering, communication technologies, business and project management disciplines worked with the town in a partnership that helped the village board plan for a variety of projects in and around the village.

Engineering students developed plans to build a parking lot at the brewery, help the village control water runoff at the municipal building, and restore the Point Road wildlife area. A group of communication students developed logos and brochures to give the village board ideas on how to revamp the town's image. Business students and other communication students investigated grant proposals to boost restoration funds. The students presented their research and work to the Potosi Village Board.

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