

University of Michigan **Provost's Teaching** Innovation Prize

2017 WINNER



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Detroiters Speak: Building Community Classrooms

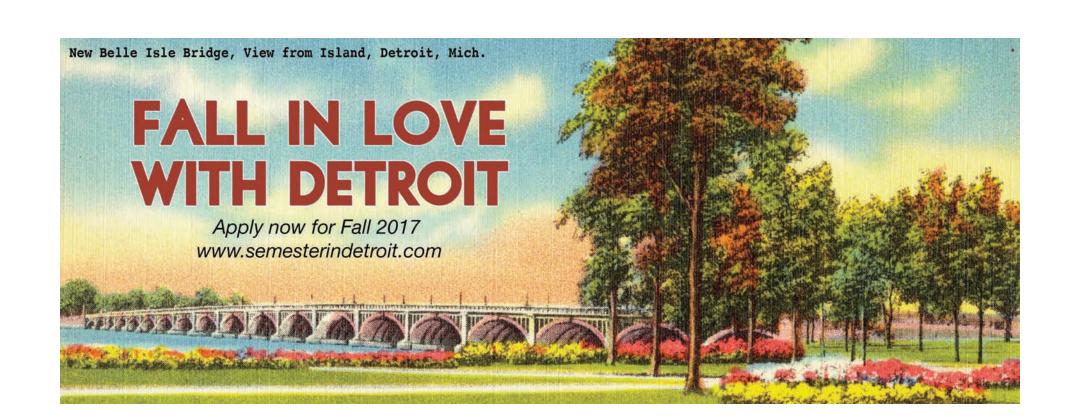
Innovation Description

A keystone of the Semester In Detroit (SID) project, the "Detroiters Speak" series creates a unique publ space for dialogue around several contemporary debates through an innovative one-credit course. Classes are public events open to everyone and anyone who might be interested in the semester's theme. People from in/around the city of Detroit are "community students," and are joined by U-M stude and alumni who live and work in or near Detroit. All materials for the class are posted on a publicly accessible web portal, and the events are recorded and archived for later viewing.

Where and how gatherings occur is as crucial to the success of the events as the content being discusse Events are held in the Cass Corridor Commons, a community organizational hub and gathering space that stands as an alternative to the growing tides of gentrification. The regular offering of a light dinner h been crucial in welcoming local residents and creat a nurturing environment to engage in intense and of heated discussions about Detroit. The ongoing nat of the project has not only grown attendance for the events but built opportunities for all types of studer to learn together and be challenged intellectually ar socially in community classrooms.

semesterindetroit.com

Examples of Teaching Innovation



The "Detroiters Speak" model was first launched in the fall 2013 semester and has since run 1-2 times per academic year. Last year, SID joined forces with Wayne State University's Detroit Equity Action Lab, and this semester, the collaborative effort has regularly attracted 100-125 people, including both undergraduate and graduate WSU students.

	Student Comments
t, olic	"The beauty of this class in this community cla setting is that it breaks norms and allows for s more productive discussion, flexibility, and lea
ŕe	"It broadens our ideas of who is a student, wh is a teacher, what is a classroom, and who is c community."
dents	"I left session one feeling really excited about general education structure of the class. I car tell that this class will challenge me intellectua
d ne	and socially in ways that my other classes hav Moving forward, I am excited to learn from bo speakers and the attendees at the sessions."
esed. ee of has ating often ature ne ents and	"This class is unique in the way that the classr changes to fit the topic and to provide the mo inclusive experience for the students—Univers community—to understand and learn."
	"The class does not just provide information for look over, to later be tested on; it really forces ask the big questions about How and Why."
	"'The Detroiters Speak' series has given so ma students a deeper insight into issues that they have known nothing about. It provides an envi to think more deeply and critically about real

WINTER 2017 DETROITERS SPEAK: TOWARD EDUCATION JUSTICE

community experiences."

ALL SESSIONS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 7:30PM-9:30PM CASS CORRIDOR COMMONS (4605 CASS AVE.) LIGHT DINNER WILL BE SERVED FEBRUARY 9: INTRODUCTION - WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION? FEBRUARY 16: DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS - RACE, HISTORY AND PURPOSE FEBRUARY 23: BLACK, BROWN, & RED POWER -SCHOOLING RESISTANCE MARCH 9: THE CRISIS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN DETROIT SINCE THE 1990S MARCH 23: EXAMINING UNIVERSITY ENGAGEMENT WITH DETROIT MARCH 30: EMERGENCY MISMANAGEMENT - THE STATE'S ROLE IN DETROIT'S PUBLIC EDUCATION APRIL 6: TEACHING & LEARNING IN DETROIT SCHOOLS TODAY APRIL 13: ENVISIONING A BETTER FUTURE: PUBLIC EDUCATION IN DETROIT For more information. call (313) 505-5185 or email semesterindetroit@umich.edu USU DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES ACTION



The shared community learning space enables contributions from and conversation among all participants.

Events are publicized well in advance so that community members and students alike can plan for them.

community classroom nd allows for so much xibility, and learning."

a student, who n, and who is our

excited about the he class. I can already me intellectually er classes have not. learn from both the he sessions."

that the classroom provide the most dents—University or ' learn."

information for you to it really forces you to w and Why."

as given so many ssues that they may rovides an environment