



SLACO News and Events

August 3, 2015 #22



## Youth Civic Leadership Training Starts in Fall

SLACO is searching for the next participants in YOU (Young Organizers University). The photo shows (left to right) Mike Reid, SLACO Neighborhood Organizer, and Nancy Thompson, Executive Director, receiving a \$10,000 grant award from Rev. Starsky Wilson, Executive Director of the Deaconess Foundation, to further this work.

This twelve-week series trains residents of the City of St. Louis or the inner suburbs, ages 14-18, who want to make their schools and communities better. Topics for the sessions include leadership, civics, team building, community building, issue framing, active listening, community organizing, and making presentations. Through the YOU Program, SLACO hopes to:

- (a) create a youth-friendly civic environment,
- (b) publicly recognize youth participation,

- (c) convey the message that youth are valued,
- (d) enhance a sense of agency among youth who are increasing confidence that their efforts can foster social change in their communities,
- (e) develop youth advocates and identify adult allies,
- (f) increase youth civic and political activity levels to equal adult participation rates,
- (g) improve the educational motivation and aspiration levels among participating youth,
- (h) identify existing youth resources and networks, and
- (i) organize youth and adult advocates to push civic leaders to create a youth council, task force, or advisory team.

Orientation will be held August 31. Participants should email [you@slaco-mo.org](mailto:you@slaco-mo.org) for more information.



### **A Boost to SLACO's Place-Based Work in the West End**

Big thanks to the Horizon Housing Foundation for funding the summer reading program, family dinner, and back-to-school family fun day in support of work SLACO with the residents of Etzel Place Apartments in the West End neighborhood.

SLACO also will be sponsoring a free after-school program for ages 6-12 starting on August 17 at the Etzel Community Center in the West End neighborhood.

Please put November 14, 2015, on your calendar for the annual SLACO Regional Neighborhood Conference at Harris Stowe State University. This conference is the region's premier event for training neighborhood leaders and residents.

### **Princeton Heights Joins SLACO**

SLACO welcomes its 25th member neighborhood group, Princeton Heights Neighborhood Association. With this membership increase, SLACO now represents 30% of the population of the City of St. Louis. Hurray!

