

Groundwork Anacostia River DC

4127 Minnesota Ave. NE, Washington, DC
20019

T: (202) 506-1391 F: (202) 506-3871

Meghan Chapple-Brown,

**Senior Advisor on University Sustainability Initiatives
Director, Office of Sustainability, Division of Operations
The George Washington University**

4/15/2013

Dear Meghan,

As Program Director for Groundwork Anacostia River DC, I have worked as a dedicated community activist within the region for over five years. Established in 2009, Groundwork Anacostia River DC (GWARDC) is a local non-profit organization that creates and implements community-based programs that promote the conservation of lands, foster student leadership, and support the local reclamation of lands for neighborhood use and economic development.

Groundwork Anacostia River DC (GWARDC) is pleased to serve as the founding community partner for GW's Community Engaged Teaching (CET) program.

The CET program option is a fast-track on-campus program within the Graduate School of Education and Human Development's (GSEHD) Secondary Education Program focused on preparing secondary teachers to become community-engaged educators whose teaching prepares students for reflective and engaged citizenship. CET represents an innovation in the teacher education process with a two-fold mission:

1. To prepare teachers to engage deeply with the communities in which they work; and
2. To integrate university-based teacher education with community-based service learning.

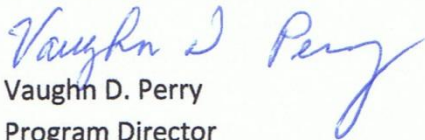
The program began in May 2012. The first cohort of pre-service teachers worked with GWARDC on a summer service learning project, alongside DC area youth to meet community-identified needs. Subsequently, the program's teaching interns translated this service learning experience into a curriculum development project, and the themes of field-based community experience run throughout multiple core courses.

In recent years, service learning has become quite prevalent in teacher education programs. However, despite its growing popularity, service learning components within teacher preparation programs in colleges and universities are most often limited to requirements for individual courses and generally

entail pre-service teachers taking on a role as a provider of a service (whether it is teaching, tutoring, child care, etc.) for children or families.

CET's unique and innovative approach helps the interns to learn *from* the community they are serving by working as *part* of that community. GWARDC is proud to support GW in its efforts to scale up this innovative program over the coming years.

Sincerely,



Vaughn D. Perry

Program Director

Groundwork Anacostia River DC, Inc.

Phone: (202)506-1391 | Fax: (202)758-3633

Email: vaughn@groundworkdc.org

www.groundworkdc.org