



**PRESIDENTIAL CITIZEN
SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

**Adult Education at Newton Street and
Truitt Street**

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Executive Summary

This Presidential Citizen Scholar (PCS) Capstone Project was a collaborative effort between The City of Salisbury and Wor-Wic Community College to offer Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adults at the Newton Street and Truitt Street Community Centers. The need for these classes stemmed from the results of the 2020 PCS Program’s “Newton Street Community Center Neighborhood Needs Assessment,” which indicated residents’ desire for education and English language skills programming at the Newton Street Community Center (NSCC).

The City runs the centers’ operations, but Wor-Wic will be conducting the classes free of charge. After the city expressed interest in expanding the program to a second location, the program expanded to offer the ABE and ESL classes at Truitt Street Community Center (TSCC). Wor-Wic also has the capacity to offer specialized job training, which could be utilized in the future to further expand the reach of adult education programming at community centers around Salisbury.

Introduction

In 2019, students in the PCS Program at Salisbury University conducted a needs assessment survey of residents in the Newton Street neighborhood (Blake, et al., 2019). The survey was distributed in association with the Newton Street Community Center, which is run by The City of Salisbury and was beginning renovations at the time. The purpose of the survey was to determine what programs and services the community center could offer that residents felt would be beneficial. According to LeGates and Stout (2015), community participation is crucial to establishing a successful public space. Thus, engaging with residents through the survey was an important step in making sure the NSCC will effectively serve the community where it is located.

The survey determined that programming around education and language skills was in high demand within the Newton Street neighborhood. This can be seen in Figures 1 and 2. Addressing this demand required the involvement of two local institutions: The City of

Salisbury and Wor-Wic Community College. The collaboration of these two institutions meant ABE and ESL classes could be offered at the Newton Street and Truitt Street Community Centers.

What programs would be more beneficial in your life?

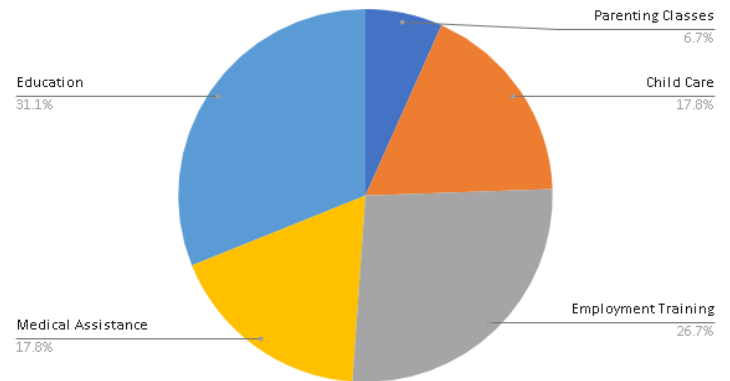


Figure 1: Responses to the prompt, “What programs would be more beneficial in your life?” from the Newton Street Community Center Needs Assessment Survey. Source: Blake, et al. “Newton Street Community Center: A Needs-Based Assessment Ensuring Beneficial Programs.” 2019.

Support Needed

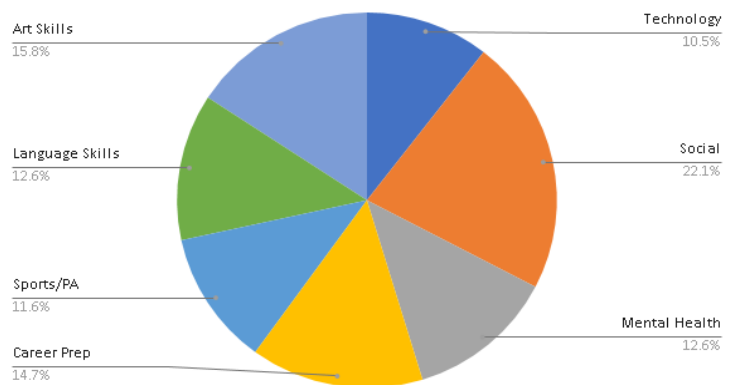


Figure 2: Responses to the prompt, “In what areas do you feel your child/children need more support?” from the Newton Street Community Center Needs Assessment Survey. Source: Blake, et al. “Newton Street Community Center: A Needs-Based Assessment Ensuring Beneficial Programs.” 2019.

Problem Statement

As shown in the Newton Street Community Center Neighborhood Needs Assessment, residents in the Newton Street neighborhood listed education and English language skills as opportunities for growth in their households and in their community as a whole. The demand for English language skills programming likely stems from the high concentration of Haitian Kreyòl and Spanish-speakers in that neighborhood. The Truitt Street neighborhood also has a high concentration of Haitian Kreyòl and Spanish-speakers, which is what compelled the City to expand the ESL and ABE programs to the TSCC.

Despite the demand for education and English language skills programming within these neighborhoods, the residents have limited access to existing ABE and ESL programs in the greater Salisbury Area. The lack of accessibility has made it difficult to satisfy this demand for the residents of these communities.

Solution

To maximize the opportunities for growth in these communities through adult education programming, the stakeholders involved decided to bring programming closer to home. This came in the form of offering ABE and ESL classes, taught by Wor-Wic faculty, on-site at the Newton Street and Truitt Street Community Centers. Doing this increases the accessibility of education and English language skills programming to the residents of those communities.

The date, time, and location of each of the classes are listed in the following table. All classes are now open for registration. Those interested in registering for classes should contact Wor-Wic by calling or texting (443)-669-6373 or by emailing adulthoodeducation@worwic.edu.

Location	Program	Session	Day	Time
TSCC	English as a Second Language (ESL)	Summer II (July 2021-Aug. 2021)	Tuesday, Thursday	10am-11:30am
TSCC	Adult Basic Education/ Pre-GED (ABE)	Fall (Sept. 2021-Dec. 2021)	Monday, Wednesday	6:30pm-8pm
TSCC	Adult Basic Education/ Pre-GED (ABE)	Spring (Jan. 2022-May 2022)	Monday, Wednesday	6:30pm-8pm
NSCC	English as a Second Language (ESL)	Fall (Sept. 2021-Dec. 2021)	Monday, Wednesday	6:30pm-8pm
NSCC	English as a Second Language (ESL)	Spring (Jan. 2022-Dec. 2022)	Monday, Wednesday	6:30pm-8pm

Conclusion

The ABE and ESL programming at the Newton Street and Truitt Street Community Centers is the culmination of the efforts by Wor-Wic Community College, Salisbury University, and the City of Salisbury to meet the demands of the city's residents. Although this program does well to address a couple of the opportunities for growth listed in the Newton Street Community Center Neighborhood Needs Assessment, there were many other opportunities for growth that were not addressed by this program.

The most notable opportunity not addressed is employment training. Employment training was also listed in the needs assessment and Wor-Wic has the capacity to meet that demand as well. Accordingly, specialized job training on-site could be the next step for adult programming at the Newton Street and Truitt Street Community Centers. Newton Street is particularly well-equipped to offer culinary certification classes on-site because of the industrial stove in its kitchen.

Wor-Wic also has over one hundred career training programs in business, which they may be able to offer at both Newton Street and Truitt Street. Salisbury University's Perdue School of Business has a history of supporting small business growth on the Lower Eastern Shore through their Entrepreneurship Competitions, the Small Business Development Center, and the Business Economic and Community Outreach Network. A partnership between Salisbury University and The City of Salisbury to establish entrepreneurship and small business development initiatives in the Newton Street and Truitt Street Community Centers may greatly benefit those communities.

The potential of these community centers reflects the potential of the communities that house them, and presents an opportunity to engage meaningfully with residents in a way that empowers everyone to maximize the strengths of our community.

References

1. **Blake, L.; Cioccio, Z.; Cooper, J.; Evans, L.; Gischel, T.; Green, J.; Habib, M.; Leon, H.; Planner, A.; Towers, J.** "Newton Street Community Center: A Needs-Based Assessment Ensuring Beneficial Programs." Salisbury University, 2020.
2. **LeGates, R. T. and Stout, F.** "The City Reader: Sixth Edition." Taylor & Francis Group, 20



Aaron Stiegler is a student at Salisbury University and is a member of the Presidential Citizen Scholar Program.

Special Thanks

- Wor-Wic Community College
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The Presidential Citizen Scholars Program (PCS) is a multi-faceted, civic engagement experience that prepares students to become community leaders now and in the future. The PCS program offers students of all majors and levels of experience the opportunity to become engaged in the political life of the community and to develop habits of democratic citizenship. The PCS program builds on SU's mission statement "to empower students with knowledge, skills, and core values that contribute to lifelong learning and active citizenship in a democratic society." Over the course of three semesters, Presidential Citizen Scholars apply the theory and practice of engaged citizenship to cultivate a legacy project that will endure beyond their time as a student at Salisbury University.



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