COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE  
ARCH 406, COSC 650, and LDEV 688  
Rivertree Academy Interdisciplinary Project

Texas A&M University – Campus Climate Conference  
Poster Session

ABSTRACT:

The Rivertree Academy Interdisciplinary Project

The Spring 2015 interdisciplinary LAUP/ARCHITECTURE/CONSTRUCTION SCIENCE real estate development project and competition was designed to develop and test students’ abilities on a real estate development team.

AGGIE students were formed into multi-cultural and interdisciplinary teams to create a real estate development solution consisting of a two hundred (200) student residential school, grades 6 to 12, and farm for disadvantaged African American students from the Como district in Fort Worth, Texas. Interaction with the students was a major driver of the development solution.
Professors Geoffrey BOOTH, Mark CLAYTON and Julian KANG had previously expressed interest in a genuine interdisciplinary project in which Architecture, Construction Science, and Land and Property Development students could travel to and work together in teams on a REAL PROJECT.

In this REAL PROJECT, 13 interdisciplinary teams (58 Aggie students in all) were drawn from the Land and Property Development, Architecture, and Construction Science disciplines to work together on an interdisciplinary basis.

We believe the project was invaluable to our students in learning not just what we taught them in our individual classes, but also because it taught each AGGIE student the challenges and benefits of working in an interdisciplinary team with members drawn from very different cultural backgrounds and countries of origin. It made them work on a REAL PROJECT which will uplift the lives of each and every one of the disadvantaged African American students that will attend the Rivertree Academy once it is fully operational, and most importantly it gave them the AGGIE exhilaration of giving back. Clearly High-Impact Learning and a great example of AGGIES COMMIT.

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