

## Students engage in comprehensive land-use planning

When the Indianapolis Division of Planning (DOP) needed to create a 10-year plan for Indianapolis/Marion County, they partnered with the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC) to enlist local students to assist in the process of land-use planning. Students at three schools participated in the “Indianapolis Insights” Vista. Using videoconferencing to communicate with one another – as well as DOP officials and other community leaders – they identified community issues, developed a research plan, and presented the DOP with recommendations based on the research.

Students from a suburban high school explored how redeveloping land in Marion County might stimulate economic growth in repressed areas. Students at an urban high school studied social issues facing their immediate community: a high juvenile crime rate, a lack of business interest, and flight from the area. And



students from a middle school focused on how to transform an illegal dump site into a community park. Together, they learned about history, government, and the value of public participation in land-use planning.



“You’re getting information from a primary source, rather than a book that says, ‘This is how it is.’ It’s more of a hands-on approach.”

–High School Senior and Government Student

### Impact on Learning

- n Gave students awareness of community issues and the importance of citizenship.
- n Applied standards-based skills in science, math, and social sciences to a real-world setting.
- n Enhanced students’ critical thinking, research, and presentation skills.
- n Increased teachers’ level of collaboration with teachers, students, community organizations, and citizens.

### Event Stats

Number of participating experts . . . 15-20  
 Number of participating students . . . . . 30  
 Number of participating schools . . . . . 3  
 Community partner:  
 Division of Planning for  
 the City of Indianapolis