Appalachian Culture & Sustainability

Course Goals:

• Examine the history of civic, economic, and political institutions in Appalachia.

• Apply this knowledge to ask how civic institutions in McKean County address the needs of local communities.

• Focus on *sustainable* community development, i.e., an integrated approach to meeting social, economic, and environmental challenges.

• Develop a baseline of information to create partnerships and give students applied learning opportunities.
Research Process

PART I:
• Identify Participants
• Develop Questionnaire
• Interview Organizations

PART II:
• Compile Data
• Identify Trends
• Draw Conclusions
• Organize Meetings for Future Partnerships
Local Organizations

Big Brothers Big Sisters
Allegheny National Forest
United Way
THE SALVATION ARMY
American Red Cross
CPR
MCKEAN COUNTY S.P.C.A.
Canticle Farm
A Ministry sponsored by The Franciscan Sisters of Allegany
3835 South Nine Mile Road
Allegany, New York
Bradford Landmark Society
ELFFund
Bradford & McKean Co. Profile

• County Settled in 1823; Oil Boom in 1871.

• Bradford Population: 9,175 (3.15 sq. mile area)

• McKean County Population: 43,196

• McKean Population Urban: 37%; Rural 63%

• McKean Unemployment Rate (2010): 8.8%; PA Rate: 8.8%; US Rate: 9.4%

Results: Goals Most Effectively Met

- Meeting Community Needs: 22%
- Education Awareness: 26%
- Creating Community Support: 18%
- Serving the Needy: 13%
- Other: 12%
- Stream Cleanup/Revitalization: 9%
Results: Challenges

- Abuse of the System: 4%
- Logistics: 15%
- Decision Making: 8%
- Funding/Economic Hardship: 34%
- Resources/Staffing/Volunteers: 31%
- Disconnect with Political: 8%
Results: What can UPB do?

- Community Service/Volunteering: 35%
- Internships: 19%
- Research: 11%
- Technology Resources: 11%
- Promotion of Services: 21%
- Donations/Fundraising: 3%
Conclusions: Enhancing Community Assets and Building Partnerships