

**“The Harlan County Project: Phase 14”**

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## THE HARLAN COUNTY PROJECT: PHASE 14

**PROJECT FOCUS:** The Appalachian Program at Southeast Kentucky Community & Technical College will develop a smartphone application designed to increase community capacity with technology and tourism development in Harlan County, Kentucky.

### PROJECT DETAILS

**Course Number, Name, and Instructor: Summer 2014:** Humanities 204, Appalachian Seminar. Robert Gipe, instructor. **Fall 2014:** Humanities 202, Survey of Appalachian Studies I. Robert Gipe, instructor.

**Community Partner:** The Robert E. Frazier Foundation, The Higher Ground coalition, Cumberland Tourism, Appalshop. The University of Pikeville is also a partner in this project.

**Need:** Harlan County's economy depended on coal. Coal employment has declined drastically. Harlan County is so economically distressed, it is in one of the federal Promise Zones. The project proposed grows out of the partnership's commitment to increasing educational opportunities

**Number and description of planned meetings with the community partner:**

We talk monthly if not weekly. We discuss fundraising, project implementation, publicity, student recruitment, and the content of the smartphone application being created.

**Overview of the project:** In Spring 2014, students in Appalachian Studies classes began writing up incidents of community history and community-based personal experiences and connected these events and experiences to specific geographic points. They also photographed these spots. During the Summer of 2014, students will work with the Appalachian Program and Bruce Parsons at the University of Pikeville to develop a smartphone application that will integrate their stories and photographs into the Higher Ground guide to Harlan County. Some of the summer work will take place in a SKCTC class and some will take place in a UPIKE class happening in Harlan County this summer. The work will continue into the fall. The work is funded during the summer by the Robert E. Frazier Foundation as part of its three-year commitment to the Creative Development Center (CDC). The CDC is a collaborative project between our ATP partners to increase higher education opportunities in our community and to hold creative young people in the county longer. The project will combine education in arts and history with experience in software authoring. The work will be integrated into ongoing tourism development efforts. The project will also be connected to a larger collaboration with Appalshop intended to connect young creators across county lines in the SKCTC service

area. That project is funded by Alternate ROOTS and its Partners in Action program.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

- Students will develop leadership skills and awareness of community assets that can foster sustainability.
- Students will be engaged as active learners and participants in community projects.
- Students will engage in active research to assist communities in creative approaches to sustainability through asset development
- Project will increase higher education opportunities in the community
- Project will improve the experience of tourists in our community

### **PROJECT OUTCOMES**

- A body of stories about local history
- A set of photographs illustrating the stories
- A smartphone application integrating the photos and stories with GPS mapping
- Meetings with partners to review progress
- “Publication” of the smartphone application online by the ATP conference
- Presentation of research at a conference in Washington, D.C., on December 5-6, 2014.
- Creation of a poster for presentation at a poster session in Washington, D.C.
- Student presentation to their primary community partner(s) and participation in one (or more) of the following options:
- Presentation of research to at least one civic organization or to elected officials within the community, in addition to the primary community partner.
- Presentation of research at a national conference.
- Participation in a poster session or panel discussion, or delivery of a formal session at the Appalachian Studies Association’s Annual Conference in March 2015.