Proposal: Connecting New Nashvillians

After a careful examination of the previous group’s work with the Connecting New Nashvillians project, we have delineated four tasks for the upcoming year. Our central theme is to improve access to employment and resources through the development of stronger English language acquisition. This specifically involves working both with immigrant communities as well as the service organizations that serve them.

Tentative Tasks:

1.) We will find a service organization that is willing and capable of maintaining the Connecting New Nashvillians website. This will likely involve a series of discussions with potential organizations in Nashville that are interested in hosting the website. It will also include training of how to use and maintain the website.

2.) We would like to add a user friendly and interactive component to the website which would allow individuals to both volunteer their time to assist others in the community as well as ask for specific types of assistance. Tentatively, English classes that are more tailored to the specific communities in Nashville could be arranged through this site. This will involve facilitating discussion between organizations that offer English courses and the communities they serve with an emphasis on creating leadership in the immigrant community.

3.) We plan to facilitate professional development opportunities for the instructors of the English classes such that they might improve their instruction. This could entail stronger teaching organizations providing workshops and/or opportunities for other organizations to learn from them. It may also include helping organizations with strong English teaching programs host workshops on teaching English to the benefit of the weaker programs. This involves identifying more effective programs and reaching out to them to help them provide professional development to other organizations that may lack cultural understanding and awareness that a native speaker may bring to the program.

4.) We propose the continuation of the process of coordinating community service providers as they attempt to work together and build increased capacity for assisting immigrant communities.