Monsignor John J. Egan Urban Center at DePaul University

Forging connections between DePaul & Chicago
EGAN URBAN CENTER MISSION STATEMENT

The Msgr. John J. Egan Urban Center represents DePaul University's tangible and enduring commitment to search, develop, deliver, and transfer innovative, educationally-related programs and services that have a significant social impact and give concrete expression to the university’s Vincentian mission.

To that end, the mission of the Egan Urban Center is to extend the opportunities for DePaul to collaborate with its metropolitan community to address critical urban problems, alleviate poverty, and promote social justice through teaching, service, and scholarship.

TEACHING

Community Education — The Egan Urban Center recognizes that knowledge flows both ways between the academy and the community. Consequently, the EUC works closely with DePaul faculty and community organizations to develop educational opportunities that draw on the expertise of both the community and the university.

Education-to-Careers Project: Built Environment Partnership — This is a five-year educational reform initiative designed to improve the academic and career preparation of students in the Chicago Public Schools. It brings together schools, colleges, businesses, and community organizations to offer school-based and work-based learning opportunities.

Community Leadership Training and Development — The Center also facilitates professional education and training programs for local and national service providers, policy makers, and community leaders that focus on community development policies, practices, and strategies.

SERVICE

University/Community Partnerships — The concept of service permeates all of the EUC's projects and programs. Our ongoing and emerging community partners in West Humboldt Park, Humboldt Park, and North Lawndale, receive technical assistance from faculty and students as well as access to university library and information resources. The EUC also facilitates service learning partnerships and student placements for DePaul’s community-based service learning initiative.

Community-based Service Learning Center — The ChSL Center is a university-wide initiative that creates learning and research opportunities for DePaul students and faculty by engaging them in service activities relevant to their disciplines that also provide tangible benefits to the community. The EUC houses the Loop Campus office of ChSL.
DePaul/West Humboldt Park Alliance — The Alliance is an ongoing community/university collaboration that partners DePaul University with the West Humboldt Park community on Chicago's West Side. Alliance programs and projects are designed to enhance the capacity of the WiHP Family and Community Development Council and its member organizations to meet client and community needs.

SCHOLARSHIP

Action Research — The Center is committed to fully engaging the community in action research around critical issues and policies that have an impact on their lives. The EUC also conducts and facilitates participatory program evaluations for community organizations and service providers. In addition, the Center collects and disseminates research on global community development policies and best practices that enhance the knowledge base for local community organizations, universities, and policy makers.

National EZ Action Research Project — This is a national, multi-year action research project that monitors and assesses the implementation of the federal Empowerment Zone program, particularly citizen participation, in Chicago and the other seven urban Empowerment Zones. This project is a joint venture with the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Faith-based Community Development — EUC researchers continue to build on the body of knowledge in the field of faith-based community development locally and nationally. A recent study documented the role of Black churches in West Humboldt Park and their impact on local community development initiatives.

Other Activities

International Collaboration — The Egan Urban Center is contributing to as well as learning from international development models. In this regard, the Center works closely with the U.S.-based organization, Shared Interest, and its South African counterpart, the Thembani International Guarantee Fund (TIGF), in their efforts to develop models for establishing capital and credit resources in low-income regions of South Africa.

Egan Community Fellowship — Support for community leadership development activities at the grassroots level

Urban Research, Teaching and Service Directory —
A listing of DePaul faculty engaged in teaching, service, and scholarship activities

Other — Newsletters, journals, research reports, conference proceedings, lectures, conferences, and symposia
MEETING SPACE FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

The Egan Urban Center's distinct role is to initiate and support collaborative endeavors, cooperative planning, and organizational capacity-building. To that end, the Center offers affordable meeting space and resources to organizations addressing community needs. Conveniently located at the northeast corner of Jackson Boulevard and Wabash Avenue in the Chicago Loop, the Center is near CTA bus, rapid transit lines, and commuter rail stations. The Center has 3,200 square feet of meeting space and can provide:

- Three seminar-sized meeting rooms and one large meeting room
- Advanced meeting presentation technology and audio visual equipment
- Flexible room arrangements with capacities ranging from 18 to 150
- Assistance with meeting/conference planning, coordination, and catering
- A spacious lounge with the capacity to host buffet-style receptions

Sponsorships. A limited number of sponsorships are available for organizations that demonstrate financial need and whose use of the space coincides with the Center's mission. Requests for sponsorship must be submitted at least one month in advance of the meeting date.

Reservations. A non-refundable deposit is required to hold the space. For information or reservations, call the Conference Coordinator at (312) 362-8999.

The Egan Urban Center is named in honor of Monsignor John J. Egan, Special Assistant for Community Affairs for the President of DePaul University. Msgr. Egan has dedicated his life to social justice issues in the Archdiocese of Chicago where he served as an urban parish priest. He was a Special Assistant to the President of Notre Dame and has received numerous awards for his academic, religious, local, and national community service contributions. *An Alley in Chicago*, the biography of his life, was written by Margery Frisbie and published by Sheed & Ward in 1991.

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