

# LANGUAGE LEARNING THROUGH COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

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## Collaboration Between CEAL & ELI

- Context and Parameters
- Discussion of Goals & Principles
- Theme and Community Connection Brainstorm
- Strategies & Course Design
- Community Liaising & Logistical Work
- Evaluation, Partner Feedback & Adjustments

*All these interactions have been a spark and inspiration to continue my commitment for social justice in the world."*

- Erika Murcia, Masters  
School of Social Work

## Engaged Learning: Gardening & the Community

This course places EAP and ELS students in local Community Gardens as weekly volunteers in order to:

- Understand how gardens are representative of variations within our regional economies
- Analyze how these gardens reflect the needs of their respective cultures
- Explore larger food networking systems by visiting urban gardens in Detroit
- Develop confidence and fluency while speaking with Americans from across the region

*"Detroit is changing very positively with the power of community."*

- Naoto Watanabe, Masters  
Public Policy

## Community Connections

### Ann Arbor & Ypsilanti

**Avalon's Youth Leadership Program, Ann Arbor**  
Working with teens from local homeless housing organization

**Recreation Park Community Garden, Normal Park, Ypsilanti**  
A garden for adjacent senior center, and local community (and beekeeping too).

**Zion Lutheran Food & Faith Garden, Ann Arbor**  
A local church whose garden is solely devoted to feeding those in need.

**Project Grow Community Garden, Leslie Science Center, Ann Arbor**  
Working with one of the oldest community garden organizations in the U.S.

### Detroit

**Michigan Urban Farming Initiative (MUFI), in Detroit's North End**  
Since 2011, a center for alternative projects for revitalizing sustainable farming.

**D-Town Farms, River Rouge Park, Detroit**  
Working for Justice and Food Sovereignty and a center for education.

**Forgotten Harvest, Oak Park, MI**  
Dedicated to relieving hunger in Metro Detroit, Forgotten Harvest "rescued" 40.9 million pounds of food last year.

## Partnering Principles

- Conversations, Context & Relationship Building
- Co-Creation of Projects
- Bi-Directional Benefit (Letters of Agreement)
- U-M Student Preparation
- Feedback & Adjustments

*"Working with Mindy's students was a great opportunity for the teens to get out of the comfort zone of strictly peer relationships. The teens became both teachers and students in the garden alongside enthusiastic people from a diverse range of ages, languages, and experiences".*

- Rachel Nisch, Director  
Avalon Youth Leadership Program