

Southeast Working-Class Task Force March/April 2019 Newsletter

Southeast Working-Class Task Force co-founder, Angie Calvert, presents panel on Indianapolis Working-Class Communities

On April 10, as a project to fulfill the requirements for a Masters degree in sociology from the University of Indianapolis, Angie presented a panel on Indy's working-class neighborhoods.

The South East Working-Class Task Force (SEW-CTF) was an outcome of the 2012 Poverty Study Circle conducted by Southeast side residents and sisters, Angie and Tori Calvert. In 2015 they helped co-found SEW-CTF as a part of the Southeast Quality of Life Plan

The panel was made up of (left to right) Angie; Kate Voss, outreach coordinator, South East Neighborhood School of Excellence; Lisa Laflin, executive director, West Indianapolis Neighborhood Development Corporation; and, Terri Garcia, executive director of Southeast Community Services.

Four questions were given to the panel: 1) what are the best assets you see in communities you work in? Answers emphasized the diversity of families and people; 2) what are the most pressing issues facing the Indianapolis working-class communities you serve? Answers included lack of good paying jobs in who they are; 3) what are solutions to the issues? Responses included childcare services, successful K-12 education as a way out, trauma and figuring out who are not digitally connected; and, 4) how can U Indy students, staff, and faculty be part of the solution? Responses included: be better invested in working-class communities, volunteer for neighborhood organizations or schools--tutor, share your story with students, read to students and adults, and see yourself as part of the solution and get out and vote.



Issues of gentrification, why students are not going into teaching, how affordable and safe housing stabilizes neighborhoods and families, and poverty were also discussed.

The SEW-CTF newsletter is edited by task force Chair John Harris Loflin (john.loflin@seindy.org). The task force meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 on the 2nd floor at 901 Shelby St.