Building Playgrounds, Engaging Communities: Creating Safe and Happy Places for Children

Based on the book by Dr. Marybeth Lima

Friday
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Student Center
Ballroom E
12 - 1 PM

Book Description:

We accomplish extraordinary things when we do ordinary things together. This heartfelt and hopeful conviction led LSU professor Marybeth Lima to begin the LSU Community Playground Project in an attempt to involve her students in the larger Baton Rouge community. Fifteen years and over seven hundred students later, Building Playgrounds, Engaging Communities tells the story of the Playground Project’s ongoing partnership with area public schools to build safe, fun, accessible, kid-designed playgrounds. Lima’s experiences with the Playground Project range from outright failures to hard-won victories. Overcoming the challenges of working with scarce resources, Lima persevered despite many setbacks. Her accounts brim with hope, humor, and dedication.

Building Playgrounds, Engaging Communities emphasizes the major impact people can have when they work together for the common good whether by building playgrounds, establishing neighborhood gardens, or having honest, respectful conversations. To this end, Lima provides an appendix with practical advice for local engagement. People wanting to get involved in their communities can use this book as a road map; those active in long-term endeavors can draw on it for ideas and inspiration.

Marybeth Lima is the Cliff & Nancy Spanier Alumni Professor in Biological & Agricultural Engineering at LSU, a registered professional engineer, a nationally certified playground safety inspector (CPSI), and the Director of the LSU Center for Community Engagement, Learning, and Leadership (CCELL). In 1998, Marybeth established the LSU Community Playground Project, a service-learning program which pairs elementary school and college students to design and build “dream playgrounds” at local public schools. These sustained efforts have led to the construction of more than 25 collaboratively designed playgrounds. In 2006, she and Bill Oakes co-authored Service-Learning: Engineering in Your Community, the first textbook for engineering students engaged in service-learning. In 2007, Lima received the Thomas Ehrlich Award, the most prestigious national award given to faculty practitioners of service-learning. Marybeth and Jean Strait co-edited The future of service-learning: new solutions for sustaining and improving practice (Stylus, 2009). As Director of CCELL, Lima is focusing on expanding the scholarship of engagement at LSU and on establishing policies and procedures to minimize risk and to further institutionalize service-learning. She is author of the book Building Playgrounds, Engaging Communities: Creating Safe and Happy Places for Children (LSU Press, 2013).
Due to the coronavirus, Red Emma's worker owners have decided that the safest course of action is to temporarily completely close our space. We are not accepting take out or delivery orders for food, but we are still accepting and shipping online orders for books. We are in the process of rescheduling events—stay tuned for details. If you would like to support us in these difficult times: Buy a gift card online * Donate to this worker coop support fund. Building Playgrounds, Engaging Communities: Creating Safe and Happy Places for Children Kindle Edition. by Marybeth Lima (Author). 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 ratings. See all 5 formats and editions Hide other formats and editions. About the Author. Marybeth Lima is the Cliff and Nancy Spanier Alumni Professor of Biological and Agricultural Engineering and director of the Center for Community Engagement, Learning, and Leadership at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. She and her partner live in Baton Rouge with three rescue animals. Product details. Great book on engaging the community with a public project. A great read for new teachers and engineering students. Read more. Helpful. Lima, M. 2014. The LSU Community Playground Project: Reflections on 16 years of an engineering service-learning program. Int. J. for Service-Learning, Humanitarian Engineering, and Social Entrepreneurship. Special Issue: University Engineering Programs that Impact Communities: Critical Analyses and Reflection, pp. 492-508. Lima, M. 2013. Building Playgrounds, Engaging Communities: Creating Safe and Happy Places for Children. LSU Press, Baton Rouge, LA. ISBN 978-0-8071-4980-5., http://lsupress.org/books/detail/building-playgrounds-engaging-communities/. Arrazattee, C., Lima, M. and L. Lundy. 20