



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts
Carolyn Crouch

Will defend her thesis

**Community Food Resource Assessment in Central City South,
Phoenix: A Study of Community Capacity Building**

Abstract

Many studies have shown that access to healthy food in the United States is unevenly distributed, and convenience and dollar stores are the prevalent grocery options for many low-income minority communities where supermarkets and other fresh-food retailers are not accessible. I formed a partnership with Phoenix Revitalization Corporation, a community development organization working in Phoenix's Central City South (CCS) neighborhood, to increase the community's capacity to meet its health goals by improving access to healthy food. I used a community-based participatory approach to align my research with the community's Quality of Life Plan, and to facilitate collaboration between academic and non-academic partners. Using interviews, Nutrition Environment Measures Surveys (NEMS), and mapping to analyze the community's food resources, I found that physical, economic, and social barriers impede residents' access to affordable, nutritious food. My community food assessment provides a baseline for tracking progress to increase availability of nutritious food and residents' access to it, as well as a platform for further communication, education, and action in the community. The research was an essential step in improving access to healthy food for CCS residents, because it produced recommendations to equip and empower the community with strategic, community-specific interventions to reduce the disparities in food access experienced by residents and achieve the health goals of the community's Quality of Life Plan.

April 18, 2011
2:30 PM
Wrigley Hall 481

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:
Sharon Harlan, Chair
Hallie Eakin
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