Early in 2011 the Town of Vestal approached the CACRD to develop a community-wide survey on how people use the Whitney Point Reservoir and the Chenango, Delaware, Susquehanna, and Tioughnioga Rivers. The town and 22 collaborating regional municipalities were seeking community input to supplement their New York State Local Waterfront Revitalization grant.

The survey found that more than 80% of respondents use the Susquehanna River for recreation, followed by the Chenango River (77%) and the Whitney Point Reservoir (68%). The top three preferences for commercial waterfront development were restaurants (65%), water-related equipment, instruction, and rentals (54%) and water-related and based competitions (30%). Three percent of respondents would like to see no commercial development on the rivers.

Pollution reduction was at the top of the list for environmental improvements on the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers, as most respondents use the rivers for walking, bird watching, and picnicking.

The full survey report is available on our website.
Do Activities Outside of School Help Students Succeed?

The Prevention Needs Assessment Youth Survey [PNA] is administered in select Broome County schools to gather data on students’ risk behaviors. In the Fall of 2010, Dr. Sue Seibold-Simpson of the Decker School of Nursing supplemented the PNA with a questionnaire that asked students in grades 7-12 about the types of activities they have been involved in since the 1st grade. The purpose of her research is to determine the extent to which organized activities mediate the effect of protective and risk factors at the individual, family, peer, school, and community levels on adolescent health risk behaviors, specifically alcohol and drug use.

Descriptive and correlational analyses were performed and demonstrated significant findings among outside involvement and health risk and protective behaviors—outside activities were negatively associated with substance use behaviors. Controlling for protective and risk factors, outside activities predicted a reduction in select substance use behaviors.

In conjunction with Dr. Seibold-Simpson’s research, the CACRD conducted interviews with school district administrators and a group of administrators from the Broome County Department of Mental Health to identify and describe programs offered in school districts (e.g., implementation, capacity, enrollment, availability), as well as how funding decisions are made. According to the interview data, there was great variability in the percentage of kids who participate in something, with interviewees reporting between 30% and 80%. Most cuts to school-based programs were made to club advisors’ stipends, guidance counselors, and psychologists, and by merging sports teams.

The project was funded by the Academic Program and Faculty Development Fund. Data collection and analysis will continue through 2012.

Temporary Quarters

Our region will be recovering from the effects of the September 2011 flood for years to come. As a result, the College of Community and Public Affairs has been temporarily housed at the Engineering Building on Binghamton University’s main campus.

Watson’s faculty and staff have been wonderful and we are grateful for the accommodations.

We will return to the University Downtown Center in August 2012, at the beginning of an exciting new phase in the revival of Binghamton’s urban core.

The CACRD provides a link between the University and the community by pairing faculty with community organizations, enabling both to benefit from rigorous community-based research.