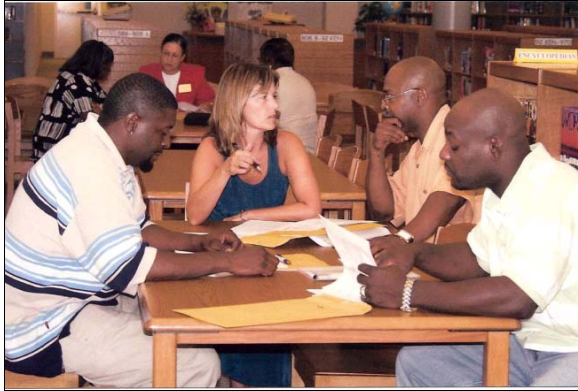


East St. Louis

The East St. Louis Grow Your Own Project, under the leadership of LaToya Greenwood and Denisa Huff of East St. Louis School District #189 has



Pictured above: Armandos Fisher (student), Pamela Feters (Academic Advisor at SIUE), Marquis Ramsey (student), and Drake Jackson (student).

The Partners: East St. Louis GYO received a Grow Your Own Teachers planning grant in April 2006, and its first implementation grant in the fall of that year. The partner organizations are:

East St. Louis School District 189

East St. Louis NAACP

**Southern Illinois University at
Edwardsville**

Southwest Illinois College

The school district is the lead organization and fiscal agent on the grant.

The Cohort: The East St. Louis Cohort has 47 active participants, of which approximately 1/3 are men. They are all African-American; their median age is 38. 42 of the 47 had some college experience before entering the program. 43 are employed, 28 full-time; 27 have dependent children in their households. Nearly all live in East St. Louis proper.

had an extremely successful first year. In this period, the candidate population grew from 17 to 47, all but three taking classes at the East St. Louis campus of Southwest Illinois College. The 577 credit hours that the ESL GYO candidates took at SWIC caused this branch, located in the East St. Louis Community College Center, to be the only campus of SWIC to show enrollment growth. The ten candidates who have achieved a 3.0 GPA or above are working to ensure that goal is also met by their colleagues. They include Terry and Sybil Scott, the only married couple (that we know of) enrolled together in a GYO program. At the current rate of progress, 17-19 students will be enrolled in the special education program of Southern Illinois University by the fall of 2008.

One of the most exciting elements of the East St. Louis GYO project is that the Community Partner, East St. Louis NAACP, through the leadership of Ms. Sylvia Yandle, has been able to recruit an exceptional cadre of 15 educators, counselors, administrators and librarians who have retired from the East St. Louis School District to serve as mentors for the candidates.



The East St. Louis Grow Your Own Teachers Cohort