



Project SPARC

Project SPARC (Springfield Participatory Action Research Crew) is a team of community researchers from New North Citizens Council, Smith College, Project Coach and the Springfield community-at-large looking into the path Springfield youth take after high school as they move towards independence and young adulthood. This federally funded project is a *participatory action research project*, meaning that 1) the community most impacted by the issue we are researching is deeply involved in the research process, and 2) our goal is to generate and pilot community solutions in addition to understanding the issue.

Research Statement

As a first step in our collaborative process, our research team identified the following statement of purpose and guiding questions. The research statement guides our methods, including our interview questions and outreach strategy.

With this participatory action research, we will explore how emerging adults in Springfield experience the transition to adulthood after high school. We hope to understand their initial aspirations, how those aspirations played out or changed after leaving high school, and how they navigated the barriers and obstacles they encountered.

1. How do emerging adults in Springfield envision their future after high school, and how does this change over time? What factors determine what they will do after high school?
2. What, if any, supports and resources do emerging adults have as they navigate the transition to young adulthood? What resources would be helpful to better support the transition?
3. How are high schools and out of school programs in Springfield preparing young people to transition out of high school?
4. How do financial, community, and family resources impact the aspirations of these emerging adults and their ability to reach them?

How to Get Involved

We are actively looking for emerging adults in Springfield (ages 18-25) to interview and include in our project. In Summer 2019, we plan to host a series of community events to engage the Springfield community in this work.

Contact us to get involved!

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