

December 19, 2013 --

The Savannah Community Appreciative Leadership Engagement (SCALE) created a nine-minute video highlighting our leadership learning experience.

Video Link: <http://youtu.be/BMyLuCA05zI>

Our Goal: To develop listening leadership and practice it in our community as it relates to health promotion and policy. We integrated appreciative inquiry and applied an appreciative approach to projects in which each of us has a leadership role.

Our action learning projects:

- Let's EAT healthy, PLAY often, and create COMMUNITY!
- The Healthy SAVannah L.E.A.N. Challenge
- The Forsyth Farmers' Almanac

Through these experiences, we heard that *our community* (a) is eager and encouraged to live healthier lives, (b) has been working toward a healthier existence in spite of disparate conditions and ineffective supports, and (c) desires a space where they can be heard.

Key learnings:

- Avoiding top-down conversations
- To lift the voice of the community
- Plan more for the process vs. the "event"
- Create the space to fully listen to the communities answers to questions (as given, not reiterated by a third party to make results "pretty")
- The shift from traditional leadership to more appreciative leadership is a messy one

Next, we plan to influence our local leadership to integrate an appreciative approach, seek sufficient supports to carry out this movement, and create more opportunities to listen and amplify voices.