

**News Release**  
**11/10/09**

**Representative Ron Crimm joins education experts for classroom observation**  
*Effort aimed at strengthening civics lessons*

Representative Crimm, R-Jefferson County, joined with teachers, administrators and University of Louisville faculty to participate on an observation team in an effort to strengthen high school civics lessons.

Representative Crimm recently participated as a member of Ms. Kristina Sauer's lesson study observation team at Eastern High School in Jefferson County. Representative Crimm stated, "If you want to see what's going on in our schools, go look for yourself." Lesson study is receiving national attention as a process for understanding student learning. The University of Louisville Office of Civic Education and Engagement partnered with the Kentucky Department of Education to form a lesson study community in 2008. The purpose of the lesson study community is to examine how students demonstrate they have gained civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions in order to be informed, active, and effective citizens in the Commonwealth.

Social studies teachers from across Kentucky applied to participate in a professional learning community that consists of 10-15 teachers each semester. Teachers work with one another to design and refine a lesson plan, implement the lesson and then revise the lesson based on data collected from an observation team and student interviews. Observation team members and students are valuable to the lesson study process.

The main purpose of the observation team is to collect data on how students learn civic content, skills and civic dispositions (honesty, open-mindedness, negotiation and compromise, civility, etc.) during the lesson. Additionally, students are interviewed by observation team members after the lesson to share what they learned during the lesson and the skills and dispositions they demonstrated. Students have shared they feel empowered when adults ask them about what they are learning and that they have a voice in their education. Representative Crimm stated, "If we expect our youth to grasp educational values, then we need to know how and what they are thinking. Lesson study is a program that does just that."

Legislators and community members are invited to serve on lesson study observation teams. Mrs. Sauer stated, "I think it is important for legislators to see education in action--they discuss and debate and vote on education bills--lesson study provides an avenue for them to see those laws in real-life action!" Providing an opportunity for the community to participate in classrooms helps connect and strengthen community and school partnerships.

For more information on the University of Louisville Office of Civic Education and Engagement lesson study process visit [www.uofl.edu/education/civics](http://www.uofl.edu/education/civics).