This ethnographic research lab was created as part of a STAR grant from ADTS. The project was designed for students in Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (ANT 2053). This project was designed to create opportunities for personalized engagement with course concepts in large, introductory course settings. However, many of the project components could be productively utilized in smaller classes as well.

The Collaborative Ethnographic Research Lab permits students to extend their work in cultural anthropology beyond the classroom and to apply conceptual and theoretical knowledge from the course to the practice of engaged community research.

- Students organized into groups of approximately four students from the start of the semester based upon their responses to an initial pre-course survey that gauges professional interests, research interests, and publishing interests (written, digital, film, etc.).
- Each group selects from an array of thematic research areas (gender and sexuality, race and racism, conservation and environment).
- Groups are guided in selecting a research site/space within the university or neighboring community to pursue a related research question.

The project guides students in the work of applying newly learned anthropological theories and methods for engaging their own community.

Through this project, students:
- Developed a stronger sense of intellectual community with their classmates
- Enhanced their capacity for applying the "anthropological toolkit in everyday life
- Learned the basic mechanics of a social scientific research project and how to present their findings