

# The Storytelling Project at UNCG

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## **Greensboro Public Library joins UNCG's communication studies department in the promotion of tolerance – *Communicating Common Ground***

### ***Partnership forged between The Storytelling Project at UNCG and the public library***

Communication department faculty and students at UNCG have partnered with the Greensboro Public Library in a national service-learning project designed to foster respect and acceptance through multicultural education. Communicating Common Ground (CCG) is a cooperative project initiated several years ago by the National Communication Association (NCA), the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), the American Association for Higher Education (AAHE), and Campus Compact (CC). Now recruiting new partnerships for its fourth year (<http://www.natcom.org/Instruction/CCG/ccg.htm>), the project has already spawned over 50 partnerships across the nation. Each local partnership, under the direction of a faculty member, engages communication college students and faculty with K-12 teachers and students or youth from community groups in learning activities designed to advance multicultural education, appreciation of diversity, and the creation of communities in which hate, hate speech, and hate crimes do not exist.

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The aim of this national initiative is to better educate youth to embrace the advantages of a diverse society, forward engaged relationships between higher education and elementary/secondary education, and promote service learning as an effective approach to enhancing student learning and civic responsibility. The course-based projects of these partnerships are supporting safer communities and encouraging civic responsibility by reducing the prejudices and misunderstandings that lead to miscommunication and hateful acts. *SPLC Teaching Tolerance* materials serve as an important resource for this national effort ([www.tolerance.org/](http://www.tolerance.org/)).

*The Storytelling Project at UNCG*, one of two CCG partnerships within the department of communication studies, utilizes stories as a non-threatening device for teaching tolerance and respect. In March, storytellers will work with the Child Care Education Program at UNCG. In April they will perform tales at various library branch locations. On May 2<sup>nd</sup> the storytellers will end their semester with *The Very Special Arts Festival* at the Gateway Educational Center in Greensboro.

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