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PRESENTS

C O S P O N S O R E D B Y : E W B



## Building Playgrounds, Engaging Communities: Creating Safe and Happy Places for Children Based on the book by Dr. Marybeth Lima

Friday

April 19,  
2013

Student  
Center

Ballroom  
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12 - 1  
PM



Image & description  
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### Book Description:

We accomplish extraordinary things when we do ordinary things together. This heartfelt and hopeful conviction led LSU professor Marybeth Lima to begin the LSU Community Playground Project in an attempt to involve her students in the larger Baton Rouge community. Fifteen years and over seven hundred students later, *Building Playgrounds, Engaging Communities* tells the story of the Playground Project's ongoing partnership with area public schools to build safe, fun, accessible, kid-designed playgrounds. Lima's experiences with the Playground Project range from outright failures to hard-won victories. Overcoming the challenges of working with scarce resources, Lima persevered despite many setbacks. Her accounts brim with hope, humor, and dedication.

*Building Playgrounds, Engaging Communities* emphasizes the major impact people can have when they work together for the common good whether by building playgrounds, establishing neighborhood gardens, or having honest, respectful conversations. To this end, Lima provides an appendix with practical advice for local engagement. People wanting to get involved in their communities can use this book as a road map; those active in long-term endeavors can draw on it for ideas and inspiration.

Marybeth Lima is the Cliff & Nancy Spanier Alumni Professor in Biological & Agricultural Engineering at LSU, a registered professional engineer, a nationally certified playground safety inspector (CPSI), and the Director of the LSU Center for Community Engagement, Learning, and Leadership (CCELL). In 1998, Marybeth established the *LSU Community Playground Project*, a service-learning program which pairs elementary school and college students to design and build "dream playgrounds" at local public schools. These sustained efforts have led to the construction of more than 25 collaboratively designed playgrounds. In 2006, she and Bill Oakes co-authored *Service-Learning: Engineering in Your Community*, the first textbook for engineering students engaged in service-learning. In 2007, Lima received the Thomas Ehrlich Award, the most prestigious national award given to faculty practitioners of service-learning. Marybeth and Jean Strait co-edited *The future of service-learning: new solutions for sustaining and improving practice* (Stylus, 2009). As Director of CCELL, Lima is focusing on expanding the scholarship of engagement at LSU and on establishing policies and procedures to minimize risk and to further institutionalize service-learning. She is author of the book *Building Playgrounds, Engaging Communities: Creating Safe and Happy Places for Children* (LSU Press, 2013).