Brooklyn College's CIty-As-Lab project is a new GK-12 initiative with a community-based urban focus. The project began in August 2007. The City-As-Lab project addresses the NRC's call for a community of partners to help to integrate spatial thinking with GIS to pre-college curriculum. The project's urban setting with its diversity of schools and abundance of informal education resources supports a teacher in several high schools that are part of the "small school" movement to teach science in an authentic and community-based fashion with an emphasis on science and the environment. As a result of the project, we are creating an enduring, cooperative network of educational initiatives that includes Brooklyn College, Brooklyn-based "small schools", the NYC Department of Education, and informal science partners in Brooklyn. Fellows aid teachers in developing Brooklyn-based research activities incorporating geospatial technology (GPS and GIS), thereby permitting students and teachers to relate data to geographic position in their home community and to engage with authentic scientific problems that are relevant to their urban environment. Two broad environmental research initiatives are underway. Several school teams have integrated environmental quality studies into their 4th and 11th grade science curriculum, with field data linked to experimental studies and a to a borough-wide contaminant database. Another school with an urban planning theme is conducting neighborhood-based energy audits and relating energy use to carbon emissions. In all five schools, GK-12 fellows have taken a leading role in the integration of field and classroom-based technology into science curricula.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: HTTP://BRIDGES.BROOKLYN.CUNY.EDU/CAI/