



The Senior Project Initiative: Regional K-16 Collaboration


Presented at
20th Anniversary Conference
The Power of Place:
Regional Higher Education Networks for Community
Transformation
February 28, 2008




PHENND Role

- Mobilize network for common project
 - Goal is to partner each participating high school with at least one college partner
 - Mostly college students serving as “academic coaches” to high school seniors
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Summer Internship 2007

- Selected one student per targeted campus
 - Students each received small stipend
 - Group worked to produce training materials for following academic year
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Training Materials

- Series of train-the-trainer workshops created
 - Topics such as:
 - Writing a thesis statement
 - Citing sources
 - Public speaking
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On the ground

- Ideally 2 college students per class
 - College students work with small groups or one-on-one with high school students
 - College students are both volunteers as well as service-learning students
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Successes

- Anecdotal evidence that students are making a difference
 - Unintended benefits – Penn Critical Writing Project provided additional professional development
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Challenges

- Still haven't found a college partner for each high school – geography
 - Differing calendars between high school and higher ed
 - How best to evaluate college partner's role
 - Fostering real partnerships at ground level
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Summer Institute 2008

- Course development institute for college faculty
 - Four will receive a course stipend of \$2,000
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