Development of Sustainable Partnerships Through Understanding Common Goals

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Bryan ISD GEAR UP in Partnership with Texas A&M University

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Introduce yourself to those around you. Tell them where you are from and your grant year.
You will be able to find this presentation next week in its entirety at http://gearup.cehd.tamu.edu/
Quick Facts about Bryan ISD GEAR UP:

• Class of 2014 – 11th grade students this year
• Current Cohort Size: 977
• GEAR UP Staff:
  • Texas A&M University: Director, Assistant Director, Evaluator, 3 Part-Time Graduate Assistants, 3 Part-Time Student Assistants, 2 Full-Time Parent Liaisons
  • Bryan ISD: Coordinator, Outreach Specialist
• Economically Disadvantaged: 71.8%
• 4 High Schools:
  • Two Traditional 9-12 Campuses,
  • One Early College High School,
  • One Alternative/Flexible Campus
Think Time
At the end of the presentation you will be asked to do the following:

• Identify two partnership ideas you would like to share with others.
• Write them on a sticky note.
• Find two people you don’t know and share your ideas.
• Listen as they share their ideas.
Research Background

• Collaboration and partnership between schools and community organizations is necessary in order to meet the many needs of our students today (National Dropout Prevention Center, 2012).

• Numerous benefits result from these partnerships (Lockwood, 1996).
Research Background

Research has shown positive outcomes, such as:

- improved attendance rates,
- lower suspension rates,
- increased reading and math performance, and
- improved relationships between community leaders (Schargel & Smink, 2001).

Yet, school-community partnerships can be tricky, with uneven power distribution, differing goals, lack of clear purpose, etc. (Jehl, Blank, & McCloud, 2001).
Research Background

Given the importance of effective community partnerships and the need to understand how to successfully form and implement school-community partnerships, the purpose of this presentation is:

To provide other GEAR UP programs with information needed to create sustainable partnerships by developing relationships with others who share common goals.
Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?
1st Grade Research

* Which is NOT an outcome of community/school relationships from our research?

• A. improved attendance rates
• B. lower suspension rates
• C. increased reading and math performance
• D. decreased student incarceration rates
1st Grade Research
Answer

• D. decreased student incarceration rates
Challenges of Successful Partnership Building

• Communicating with the wrong person
• Things happen very slowly or too quickly
• Personal contact is very, very important
• May not have the desired outcome at first
• Details matter! How are things done within this group?
• Partnership may not work out
Partnership Benefits

- Building relationships with the community, families, and other entities within the school district
- Able to reach more families and non-cohort students
- Provide more activities
- Match – Time/Money
Strategies

• Think about what you need to accomplish
• List those in the community, school district, and cohort parents who serve students/families
• Find the correct contact person
• Make an appointment to meet in person
• Describe your GEAR UP, sell your program
• Talk about their goals and activities
• How can your programs align?
Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?
2nd Grade Challenges, Benefits, and Strategies

* What is the biggest challenge we have found in our grant?
The partnership may not work out.
Examples of Partnerships

• Sylvan Learning Center -
  • Planners
  • Scholarships
  • PSAT/SAT/ACT Training

• KBTX –
  • College Tip of the Week
  • GU PSA

• St. Teresa’s Catholic Church -
  • Inserts in bulletin
  • Workshops
  • Pláticas para Padres
  • Monthly visits by GU staff
Other Partnership Examples

- City of Bryan –
  - Transportation for college trips,
  - Job-shadowing
- TAMU Recruiting –
  - College Tip of the Week
- Hispanic Forum –
  - College Trip,
  - Aggies Reaching Out,
  - Mentoring,
  - Student Workshops
Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?
3rd Grade Partnerships

Which partnership has brought us the most public recognition?
3rd Grade Partnerships

Answer

* Texas A&M Office of Recruiting
Associates – Potential Partners

- The Eagle Newspaper
  - College Tip of the Week
- Candy 95 Radio Station
  - PSA for Explore/Plan
- Churches
  - Reach and Teach
  - College/Financial Aid Workshops
- Blinn College
  - Recruiters
  - Open House
  - College Day
Other Potential Partners

- Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living
  - Workshops for students with disabilities
- Team SHIFT
  - Workshops on entrepreneurship and goal-setting
- Cohort Parents
  - Workshops
- Friends
  - Student Leadership Training
Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?
4th Grade Potential Partnerships

Which potential partnership has provided us with the most challenges?
4th Grade Potential Partnerships Answer

* Churches
Resources within Bryan ISD

• Office of Communications
  • College Tip of the Week
• Career Technology
  • Hosting Technical College
  • Career and Technology Teacher Professional Development
• Other Grants
  • Summer Camps
• Foundation
  • Road to College Success Game
Additional Resources *within* the School District

- **Campus Principals**
  - Teacher professional development
  - Planners
- **Counselors**
  - Parent Workshops
- **Special Education Staff**
  - Professional development for staff
  - Student self-determination training
  - Community Awareness Workshop
Resources within Texas A&M University

- Texas A&M Office of Admissions and Recruiting
  - Public Service Announcements
  - Presentations at student trainings
- College of Education and Human Development
  - Tours of the university
  - Administrator training from P-16 representative
  - Additional staff support
  - News articles
- Center on Disability and Development
  - Sponsor student participation at national conference
  - Website support
Other Resources *within* the University

- **Student Groups**
  - Mentors
  - Student trainings and workshops

- **Disability Services Office**
  - Training for parents and students on ADA services offered in post-secondary education settings
Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?
5th Grade Resources

* Which three district offices have provided us with the most support?
5th Grade Resources
Answers

* Career Technology
* Office of Communications
* Special Education
Ideas Come from Collaboration!

Conversation with TAMU College Recruiter

College Tip of the Week PSA

Counselor’s Training

Career Choices PSA
Think Time

• Identify two partnership ideas you would like to share with others.
• Write them on a sticky note.
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• Listen as they share their ideas.
Questions?
Comments?
Please complete the evaluation.
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