

SLAC meeting: October 27th, 2009

Attended by:

Laurel Kennedy, Susie Kalinoski, Michele Doran, Mary Tuominen, Roger Kossom, Lyn Robertson, Jack Schuler, Alexandra Bradner

Reflection on Diane Reiser event (10/22):

- Things to take away from the seminar: We have lots of opportunity to conduct school activities with a focus on shared student work
- Outreach of DCA is large. Using this structure (as well as sports teams) as a framework for introducing college and building college awareness would be helpful
- Transportation can be an issue in bringing public school students and their families to campus. We've been successful thus far in either arranging our own methods of transportation or obtaining grant support to get kids to campus. We can continue to explore ways of bringing the campus to the community.
- Jack brought up the possibility of creating a space within the community to facilitate collaboration with other groups and make events/activities more accessible.
- Highlighted events that could be used to get kids to Denison: basketball games (or any athletic event), meeting professors and students who have made it to college (important to see role-models), workshops by artists-in-residence, cultural events
 - Must remember that process is long-term. We have to look at the community's interests as a foundation for future programs.

Center Activities/What next?:

- Heritage Middle School as a possible community site: Service Learning Office could establish programs, but ultimately the college must fully embrace the ideas. We want to be careful to collaborate with rather than compete with YES Clubhouse. We have a solid relationship with YES now and perhaps could expand that through weekend programs, since YES doesn't operate on those days.
 - Denison student/intern can be placed there to channel resources and information through work-study funding

- America Reads college visit days, Make a Difference Day (MADD), PEAK program and framing reflections toward issues of college access are helping
 - MADD, October 25th: over 150 Denison students from DCA, the chemistry, biology, physics, arts departments and various other on-campus organizations hosted 101 children from the surrounding area, including Boy and Girl Scouts and children from My Place to Be. A pre-flection was held with 80 students in attendance.
- Continuing to explore issues for both kids and families in terms of access to college: continuing outreach to Newark High School, including parents and administrators
- More names to add to Paul Tough's Book Discussion list (11/10); prompts for discussion to be developed by Lyn's Literacy and Learning course, taking place in the President's Dining Room in Huffman.
- Community Service Honor Roll Application turned in Thursday, 10/29
- Carnegie Classification still in process; Mary Fox will be working with Laurel on this throughout second semester.

Spring Events

- Language in Action Symposium: community partners, school administrators/ESL coordinators and professors will be invited to Denison to discuss how classes can better serve English Language Learners and migrant populations (particularly Spanish speakers)
- Research 101: Community partners have expressed an interest in learning more about writing with the data they collect in response to reporting requirements. Laurel will present information about community partner interests and our previous discussions at our next meeting.
- Martin Luther King Day and Big Red's Big Day: need to gather agencies' needs
 - Dilemma of student involvement: do not want to go off campus, want a short time commitment with their friends
 - Possibility of one on-campus focused event and one off-campus focused event (MLK day and recognition of and involvement in community issues another option)

Announcements:

- Laurel will be on sabbatical next fall and is actively seeking an interim director of the Center for 2010-2011. This could be a semester commitment or year-long, depending on the needs of the interim director.
- Spring courses in Service-Learning
 - Olivia Aguilar (ENVS)
 - Caroline Wilson (NEUR)
 - Robert Weis (PSYC)
 - Dosinda Garcia Alvite (SPAN)
 - Fadhel Kaboub (ECON)
 - Alexandra Bradner (PHIL)
- Issues/notes with classes
 - scheduling them on a rolling basis
 - fingerprinting (costs and time)
 - defensive drivers licenses, guaranteed blocks of time (“lab”)
 - classes do not have to connect with annual Denison theme (could be service in local jails or alcohol prevention)
 - can continue data collection with Summer Scholars/Ashbrook funds
 - building on previous classes’ work (less focus on “wrapping it up”)
 - students need to learn what is out there and come to understand obstacles in the community (developmental process)
 - community partners/faculty members do not necessarily have imagination for potential projects (increased publication of results and events needed)
- Booklet of service-learning classes available online (Curricular Service-Learning tab on Service-Learning website)
- Corporation for National Community Service Grant available; themes are environmental education and disaster preparedness for middle-schoolers

Next meeting: Tuesday November 17th (11:30 Shepardson College Room)