

21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers  
High School Networking Conference Call  
November 9, 2011

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**Notes**

**Welcome**

Lorraine welcomed the participants. She shared with the participants that she will facilitate but not lead the call. This call is for the participants to network. Lorraine also reviewed the purpose and mission of the high school networking conference calls.

**Topic: Recruitment and Retention**

1. *Did you do anything unique or different this year to recruit students?*

TrueNorth shared that they are providing student-lead activities. They did a poster session and sponsored Bring a Buddy Week. They also shared that they provide an animation club.

Bendle School site staffs the program with the teachers from the school day, which helps recruit students. A program on the history of computer games from Atari to Wii is offered, which brings in a lot of students.

The Inkster High School site coordinator goes to the school prior to the start of the program to talk with teachers. The after-school staff also attend the school sports activities to support and recruit students. Inkster High School also provides student-lead classes. Inkster High School provides an entrepreneurial session where students design their own clothing and sell it. This session brings in many students.

Eastern Michigan University (EMU) Bright Futures site coordinator shared that they have a student advisory board where the students recruit other students and submit proposals for program offerings. EMU also has a monthly attendance award.

Traverse City has an alternative high school, which provides tutoring session. If the student attends two hours in the tutoring sessions, one of their absences during the school day will be waived.

Detroit Midtown Academy offers a special dance for their after-school students.

It was shared that students, as well as program staff, have used social networking to communicate information about the program. It is used to help with recruitment.

Moodle is also being used to provide communication with students about the after-school program. Moodle is a software package for producing internet-based courses and web sites. It is a global development project designed to support a social constructionist framework of education.

2. *How are you reaching the students who need the most help?*  
Wayne-Metro shared that they recruit the highest-need students by requesting day-staff referrals.

TrueNorth shared that they have access to the on-line student grades site so they can see which students need help and then they send individualized e-mails or communications to those students.

Muskegon shared that they work with their local evaluator to review student data. The data that is reviewed are priorities and qualified to help identify the students that are in need of the after-school program. A list is then generated of the most at-risk students. This list is shared with site staff to help engage those particular students. Muskegon stated that they would share their list of priorities and qualifiers on the listserv.

SEEDS identified 25-30 students that are determined as academically at-risk and they are monitored daily, as well as having the staff make parent contacts.

Many after-school staff shared that they have access to the student daily grades. Others shared that they do not have access on a daily basis but they are able to obtain progress reports.

Grand Rapids Public Schools shared that the district has advocate staff at each high school. The advocate staff are assigned a group of students and are designated to mentor those students so they don't fall through the cracks. The advocate staff work collaboratively with 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program staff.

Inkster High School shared they get the report card data from the students directly.

EMU shared that they don't have access to the school data but they have a relationship with school counselors and secretarial staff, so they just ask for the data.

Benton Harbor shared that they have new school administration staff so they are now having problems getting access to student school-day data. They are working with the project director to get that data but in the meantime they are asking students to bring that data directly to the program.

It was asked of the programs that are getting school grades data from the students if that is successful.

One of the programs that collects student report card data from the students directly shared that they hold a student report card raffle. When students bring their report cards in, they are entered into the raffle; if they have brought their grade up, they get entered again. This has been a successful way to get the students to bring in their report cards.

One program shared that they work with students to conduct student grade goal setting. If they bring their grades up, they get to have a special activity. Powerschool is used to check the grades.

NWEA scores were given to one site coordinator who attended a teacher meeting. These scores measure growth of the student.

One program shared that every Tuesday a staff meeting is held for school day staff where a standard agenda item is the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program. This helps foster conversations on which students need the program. This relationship is strong because the principal and school day staff are working with the after-school staff.

### **Recommendations for Future Calls**

Grand Rapids shared they would like to have a site coordinators call but not back to back with the project directors call on Tuesdays.

Inkster shared they like the high school networking conference call.

Boys and Girls Club of Benton Harbor shared they like having the calls. They suggested "successful partnerships" as a topic. Other topics that were shared were field trips for high school students, cool clubs, and drop-in programming.

A new site coordinator shared that she likes the call but suggested either shortening the call or holding it at another time.

Participants shared that they like the idea of a one-time call being scheduled so that high school students could participate.

It was suggested to have the calls recorded. Amanda will look into how this would be accomplished and shared.

### **Future Call**

Information for future calls will be e-mailed to the high school listserv.