

Partnership for Community Learning Centers
Design Team Meeting
March 28, 2002
Summary Notes

Design Team members present were: Joel Siebentritt, Jenny Penney Oliver, Lori Ragsdale, JoBeth Allen, Norma McNair, Donna Butler, Joan Mack, Chris Brandt, Alexa Darby, Phyllis Stewart, Janna Dresden, Janie Voss, Julia Atilas, Pam Paisley, Janet Martin, Tim Johnson, Bettye Johnson, Jerri-Lynn Williams, Tad MacMillan, Jose Boza, Madeline VanDyck and Lyndon Goodley

Visitors: Marcus Fechheimer, UGA Department of Cell Biology, Keith Caldwell and Marty Johnston, Athens Leisure Services, Camilla Mimms, Gaines Elementary, Cynthia Ballard, Chase Street, Barbara Duke, CCSD Instructional Services, and Lew Allen, League of Professional Schools.

Members from *Nuts and Bolts* gave a brief overview of the recent quarterly meeting with Dean Castenell and Superintendent. Holloway, who continue to be supportive and encouraging of our work! The Dean particularly encouraged us to promote our own standards and benchmarks and stay ahead of national trends with regard to educational development and how to determine success.

Marcus Fechheimer, a cell biologist, researcher and teacher at UGA for 18 years made a proposal to work with the partnership, and to assist in coordinating with other Arts & Sciences faculty to work with the partnership. He reminded us of the A&S Outreach program that had been funded for years which enabled A&S faculty to be involved in outreach activities in the community. While this initiative is no longer being funded, Marcus believes there is still interest and commitment from A&S faculty to be involved and that we need to tap into the expertise available in the College of A&S. He has submitted a grant to the Howard Hughes Institute to support outreach for programs in and around Athens and within the schools; however, he is committed to being involved regardless of funding. Marcus indicated that the strong precedent for engaging in partnerships that he was increasingly aware of and our current partnership spurred him to make this proposal. He realizes that teachers do not want a parade of people coming through classrooms. But he believes that establishing key links to classrooms to coordinate active learning programs and resources is needed. He has been involved with a local school in delivering activities on (SIC 'EM), "scientists in the classroom". This has been very successful and has helped him become more aware of the challenge of how to make programs developmentally/educationally appropriate depending on the level. He would like to work with the partnership schools to develop Science Resource centers to contain a full range of information, activities and materials. He proposes to begin by generating a library of ideas and programs. He hopes we can mix applied science with

service learning projects. The Design Team will make the QCC 's available to Marcus. The proposal was met with interest and enthusiasm and plans are for Marcus to initially become involved during Science Day at Gaines on April 12th! Contact information on Marcus: 542-3338 fehheim@cb.uga.edu

Athens Leisure Services update: Representatives from the Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services and our own sub-committee (Donna Butler, Jerri-Lynn Williams & Phyllis Stewart) presented plans for intersessions where they are helping to address the need for balanced, quality programs and supervision for extra weeks off during the year. One of Leisure Services goals is to provide quality childcare to meet area family needs. We have a common mission so their partnership with us is a natural fit. Plans are well underway to provide services for approximately 1/3 of the student populations at Gaines and Chase for the 3 intersession weeks as well as for the 4 weeks in the summer. Ideas include combining education and day camp around themes, using resources of UGA (students, student teachers, faculty), faculty/staff of schools etc. Possibly cultural arts theme...Lyndon House; bring kids to UGA for various activities. Local trips are of tremendous value to kids who do not have the exposure otherwise. Roles can be developed for teachers, TA's, parents and others. The sub-committee is hoping to have outline of programs and registration by early May but we can start talking about this to our families now. Among the key questions being posed are: Curriculum addressed? What procedures for accessing resources from UGA? How to determine who attends? Cost? Needs of Pre-K kids?

Everyone agreed that this evolving relationship with Leisure Services exemplifies our vision of a true partnership with the ACC Community.

Lew Allen from the League of Professional Schools joined us to talk about the League and how the League might support the partnership initiative. The League is a network of schools and an arm of the UGA College of Education. Lew provided hand-outs on the League philosophy. The primary goal is to facilitate development of democratic learning at all levels. Some Design Team members went to their conference in the fall and we are again being invited to be guest of the League at their Spring Conference on May 8 at the Classic Center in Athens. All are welcome. To register 542-2523.

Cynthia Ballard and Camilla Mimms presented on their recent attendance at the Families First Conference in Atlanta. A main topic of the conference was how the community, including the school system, approach the family. Multiple possibilities noted for integrating material into family resource centers. One initiative, FACT: Families and Children Together, highlighted activities involving all (multi-family groups and activities). "The language of the voiceless" was a concept they believed was important to our work with families. When we are out of our "comfort zone" we lose our voice and thus our power. Many of our parents are uncomfortable and often voiceless in relation to the education system.

Other updates:

- The CIA Action Team has now become school-based, though there is encouragement that the 2 teams would interact and share their thoughts and plans. The Gaines CIA team will meet each Monday at 3pm at Gaines, beginning Monday, April 1..
- Retreat update: Norma reported that the sub-committee, with representatives of both schools, had met several times and had received good input and feedback from staff at both schools. Both schools decided independently what their priorities are for the retreat and both reflected similar topics: Governance, Discipline, Curriculum, Master schedules for schools, UGA role in the partnership, Extended instruction...what will that look like? Parapros requesting ideas for discipline strategies as well as activities that they can count toward their professional development/continuing ed. Credit requirements. All parapros will be added to email list. Parapros also want to learn more about technology.
- Tim Johnson announced that there will be a workshop on Targeted Case mgt. On April 11 at DFCS office. 2-4pm Open registration.
- JoBeth Allen announced a class for SDU credit. July 22-25 on "Critical Friends Groups" Looking at student work in a group context and discussing implications. JoBeth and Jenny have this information if needed.
- Site visits: We are looking for dates to visit demonstration sites. Bethune Academy and Helms Community Learning Center in Houston have been targeted, as has a return trip to San Diego. The Community Involvement Action Team wishes to travel to a couple of sites to visit Family Resource Centers. If you have a proposal for travel to a demonstration site contact Jenny ASAP! The travel must be completed (or at least paid for) but June 30! .

Norma's "door prize", the Bunny, was successfully raffled to Chris Brandt with the lucky number 30! Thank you again for our refreshments, Norma.

Meeting Adjourned with the reminder that our next Design Team meeting is THURSDAY, April 25 at 3:00 at the CCSD Conference Room.

A special thanks to Joel Siebentritt for taking the notes at our meeting