

## ***Promising Partnership Practices 2009***

### **Summer Institute 2009**

**Francis Marion University Center of Excellence  
Florence, SC**

**Organization Leadership**

The COE's Summer Institute 2009 was designed to provide participants with research-based, practical information about the needs and abilities of children living in poverty or low income homes. There were workshop sessions that focused on seven areas of interest that are critical to children's achievement. Attendees were undergraduate and graduate students in education, teachers and school administrators from the local area. Attendance provided the opportunity to attend an event that exposed the participants to speakers that they may not be able to hear at no cost to themselves or schools. Over 250 participants attended the Summer Institute. This resulted in consideration for a 2010 Summer Institute.

For More Details go to <http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/PPP/2009/pdf/117.pdf>

## ***Promising Partnership Practices 2008***

### **Reading Counts Book Review Celebration**

**Creek Bridge High School  
Marion, SC**

**Type 4 – Reading & Literacy**

The Principal at Creek Bridge High School challenged his students to read more. The Reading Counts program consisted of reading books and then taking tests on a computer to check the student's comprehension of what he or she has read. Points were given based on tests passed and readers with over 100 points at the end of the contest would be able to attend a special celebration. Cash prizes were also awarded to the top three readers. These top readers were asked to produce video reports on their favorite books with the help of the media specialist at the school. These videos were put on the website and played at the Book celebration. This celebration increased library circulation and state test scores, which is a great result.

For More Details go to <http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/PPP/2008/pdf/10.pdf>

### **An Organization E-Brief**

**Francis Marion University Center of Excellence  
Florence, SC**

**Organization Leadership**

Schools in the low-income, rural area known as the Pee Dee faced many challenges on staying connected with the families of their students. The FMU Center of Excellence sent out E-news briefs that were filled with event calendars and shout-outs. These news briefs worked to unite 13 school districts in the Pee Dee to increase involvement from families and community members. The news briefs are designed after the NNPS monthly e-briefs.

For More Details go to <http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/PPP/2008/pdf/109.pdf>

### ***Promising Partnership Practices 2007***

**Celebrity Reading Night**  
**Rains Centenary Elementary School**  
**Mullins, SC**

**Type 6 - Reading & Literacy**

Like many students, students at Rains Elementary were reluctant to read and their reading scores reflected this. Celebrity Reading Night was established to promote reading among students, teachers, parents and other community members. The school brought in local celebrities such as college basketball and football players, teachers, team mascots, news anchors and others to show students that their role models have favorite books and enjoy reading. While the children spent time with the celebrities, the parents attended workshops on helping their children read at home. Over 100 students, 50 parents, and 30 administrators and staff participated and it generated much excitement for the reading program at the school.

For More Details go to <http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/PPP/2007/pdf/04.pdf>

**SMART Night (Science, Math and Relevant Technology)**  
**Delmae Elementary School**  
**Florence, SC**

**Type 4 - Math**

SMART Night's two goals were to build community by having parents, students, teachers and friends come together for food, fellowship and academics and to instill in students a love for science, math and technology. This event featured math games, math and science stations and stations where parents could participate in activities with their children. Everyday items were used to bring math and science to life. The turnout was phenomenal with more than half of the student body attending the event.

For More Details go to <http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/PPP/2007/pdf/22.pdf>

**Drive – Through Breakfast**  
**Wallace Gregg Elementary**  
**Florence, SC**

**Type 2 – Climate of Partnerships**

A sign in front of Wallace Gregg Elementary read “Honk if you like our service!” Needless to say, there were lots of horns honking that morning. A “Thank You” to parents for their academic

and emotional support they provide to their children was given in the form of a Drive – Through Breakfast on September 29, 2006. Starting at 7 a.m., ATP members served breakfast to the parents in the carline dropping their children off at school. The parents also received bookmarks with tips for helping students with homework at the breakfast. Even parents who do not drive their children to school received bookmarks with homework tips and other events were offered that they could attend. The event was a pleasant surprise to parents and was a huge success for Wallace Gregg Elementary.

For More Details go to <http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/PPP/2007/pdf/62.pdf>

### ***Promising Partnership Practices 2006***

#### **Parent Support Workshops**

**Palmetto Elementary/Middle School  
Mullins, SC**

**Type 1 - Behavior**

Parent Support Workshops were offered twice quarterly for parents of students who were having behavior problems. Many students at Palmetto are from families that live in poverty and have relatives who have been or are incarcerated. Administration and the district parent liaison worked together to develop these workshops for parents and create presentations that offered strategies to help their children stay in school. The parent liaison also drove some participants to the workshops and lunch or breakfast was offered at each session, making it more inviting to possible participants. The workshops had a very positive impact on the students and almost 100% of those whose parents participated in the workshops improved their behavior and were able to continue their education at Palmetto Elementary/Middle.

For More Details go to <http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/PPP/2006/pdf/42.pdf>

#### **Financial Aid Workshops for Parents and Students**

**Mullins High School  
Mullins, SC**

**Type 1 – College & Careers**

A Financial Aid workshop was held in order to show parents and students how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student aid (FAFSA), which is needed in order to obtain financial assistance for college. Mullins' surrounding areas have high unemployment rates, making navigation of the complex form harder for some and leaving the students that need financial help, at a loss. Local college financial aid advisors helped design and implement the workshop. The Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) helped publicize the event by offering a tardy pass for students who attended,

putting up fliers, signs, newsletters and website announcements. Overall, the turnout was great and valuable information was received by parents and students about financial aid and the students even left the meeting with a completed financial aid application.

For More Details go to <http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/PPP/2006/pdf/37.pdf>