Educational Diplomacy and Community Action: Defining Needs and Negotiating Action

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Background

• The FAU graduate students attended the Institute for Global Education Diplomacy in 2013.

• The special topic course was designed to support the global education diplomacy.
1) Teacher educators will be able to implement into curriculum the community service project, so early childhood students can develop their identities as global citizens.

2) Educators will learn how to build a positive relationship with communities including families, stakeholders, and other professionals using educational diplomacy skills.

3) Educators will learn compassion through different perspectives for not only the community, but for themselves and for their peers.
Touching Lives: Education Diplomacy in Service to Others

The Soup Kitchen
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies
The Soup Kitchen

English/Spanish

Early Childhood Education Class
Volunteer Quote

• Linda, a retired school counselor and current Soup Kitchen volunteer, was on hand to provide any support we needed and observed the entire experience. With tears in her eyes, she expressed what it meant for her to witness our interactions with the children. She stated that after three years of volunteering she had become discouraged but after seeing the circle time experience she felt a renewed sense of hope. Linda said, "This was a mitzvah.......today was a miracle!"
Book Drive

- Children got to select books to take home after the education class
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies

Workshop Series for Expectant Mothers

Topics Included:

- Introduction to Prenatal Development
- Early Brain Development: Promoting Attachment & SE Development
- Early Literacy: From Books to Everyday Life
Quotes from participants

- "I never realized the impact of stress on my baby. I will be much more aware now."
- "The entire presentation was very good and I learned so much. Now that I know how much stress can impact me and my baby, I would like another session on relaxation techniques and strategies to help me reduce my stress."
- "When are you doing another one? I want to come back!"
Outcomes

• Identified a significant gap in educational services for pregnant women in the county
• Identified a need for expectant fathers to participate in learning sessions
• There is a need for a sustainable education program for young children that would support the families at the Soup Kitchen
• Hundreds of books were given to expectant mothers and young children – there is a need for much more
Lessons Learned

• Potential for program replicability
• Small projects can have a great impact on people and can promote change
• Education at all levels is the most important catalyst for change and transforms entire communities

A vision for change that meets real community needs can have a lasting impact on people!
Beyond New Crayons
What Being Ready for Kindergarten Really Means

• **Community Action Project initiation:** community service team met with the preschool center director and identified the center’s need.

• **Discussed issues:** Publicity for VPK enrollment and increasing parental involvement.
Action plan and timeline

1) Assisting with a recruitment drive to be held at the community center.

2) A kindergarten readiness information meeting to be designed and presented to parents in the community. A Picture needs to be added next section.

3/23/2014
The seminar: Beyond New Crayons
Used Education Diplomacy

• Challenge with community center’s administrator

• Invitations were accepted by a health and nutrition specialist, an early childhood behavioral specialist, and a kindergarten teacher

• A collaborative dialogue and shared ideas with parents

• Advertisement of the seminar to the community

3/23/2014
Outcomes & New Goals

• Increased summer VPK enrollment
• Revisit our initial goal and expand to incorporate the goal of reaching teachers through professional development
• Newsletters home/local newspaper and links to useful websites
• Submit a presentation proposal to a county early childhood conference
• Writing an article to the ACEI
Reflection
Thank you!

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