An Introduction to Partnership Projects

Presented by Thembi Hadebe, Ina Smith & Paula Smith

“Thinking Outside the Borders” Leadership Programme
5 – 8 November 2008, University of Pretoria, South Africa
Contents

• Introduction & Overview – Thembi Hadebe
• US-experiences shared – Paula Smith
• Partnership Project Assignment – Ina Smith
What is a partnership project?

- Willingness from all parties to participate
- Common interest/ motivation of partners involved
- Right of the parties to joint management, no party having authority over the others
- Sharing of liability
- Clear objective and time frame
- Benefits both parties

Overview of Partnership Project

• Objectives
• Challenges
• Excitement
Primary Objective

• Establish a library
Secondary Objective

• Link US & SA learners
Challenges

• Resources
• Strikes
• Computer literacy
• Time
• Corporation
• Power struggle
Excitement

- Independent learners
- Personal development
- Network
- Team spirit
- Self esteem
- New name
US-experiences shared

Reference Librarian, Penn State Abington
Cultural Lessons

2008
Thinking Outside the Borders
http://culturallessons.blogspot.com/

Dear Students,

Shortly before classes ended in June, I asked you to tell me what you learned from our brief project. Unfortunately, I posed the question too late in the school year for you to respond.

Fortunately, over the summer I was able to travel to South Africa to ask the students at Gauteng Comprehensive the same question in-person. They were gracious and welcomed me warmly with a program they organized on my behalf. I left South Africa very impressed by their efforts!

Attached below is a (very) short clip I put together from digital photos provided by Ina Smith, University of Pretoria (one of my collaborators), and audio from my digital recorder. The audio contains a few words from the students about what they learned from the project. The audio is uneven so there may be places where you will have to turn up the volume.

There is also a video of the students performing a dance during.

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CULTURAL LESSONS

This blog is a forum for students from Gauteng Comprehensive School in Mahikeng, Pretoria, Parkview Northwest High School in Philadelphia, PA, to exchange ideas, thoughts, and information about their lives and communities.

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Lessons Learned

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Monday, May 14, 2007

Discussion Topic: Violence

Students: Please respond to the following questions by clicking on the comments area below.

Under what circumstances do you think violence is an appropriate response to a problem? What do you think needs to happen to stop the violence in your school or community?

Posted by Paula at 6:21 AM 12 Comments

E francis said...

violence is not an appropriate response to any problem what needs to be done is to discuss problems together and find solutions. People who use violence to solve their problems must follow procedures or rules which are made by the community or school, if they don't they will be legal actions taken against them.

May 18, 2007 5:58 AM

E devon said...

Briana said....

I don't believe that violence under any situation is the proper response. I think peace will always be the proper response. I think people need to just make a conscience choice to what is right and not what is wrong.

May 28, 2007 7:06 PM

E tshepo said...

Firstly violence is not a problem solver, when you violate a person you destroy their spirit put them down. If you are violent you always solve problems by violating the person never think about sitting down with the person and talk out your feelings towards the person’s behaviour. What needs to be done is that people need to realise that they have a difficulty when coming to ‘problem solving’ and look for help to deal with their behaviour.

May 18, 2007 6:12 AM
Outcomes

- Report & Paula’s visit after IFLA
- People skills
- Anyone can become a leader anywhere
- Combine managerial and leadership skills
- Develop innovative & creative skills
- Listen carefully, communicate frequently
- Networks are very important
- Sometimes its best to just keep quiet …
Why a Partnership Project?

“To link librarians professionally after the institute ended and establish connections between their institutions” – Dawn J Cassady

http://www.icftb.org/bigread/pdfs/outsidetheborderbook.pdf

• Practice communication skills
• Get to know one another
• Learn about library settings in other countries
• Appreciate knowledge & challenges faced by partners
• Get inspired to try something new in own library
• Involve colleagues – enrich project
How to approach this project?

- Keep project scope realistic
- Avoid time-sensitive projects
- Make regular contact with partner to keep momentum going
- Get support of library’s administration
- Avoid projects that require using personal/institutional funds
- Find a topic/area/goal of high interest to both participants
- Make initial agreements as detailed as possible

Brainstorm Your Project

- Work in groups of 5 each (6 groups)
- Use Activity Sheets to plan project
- Identify a project
- Establish roles & responsibilities
- Focus group
- Resources
- Possible sponsors to approach
- Timeline
- Learn to create a blog (Friday 7 Nov. 08:00 – 10:00)
- Post Blog URL to “Thinking Outside the Borders” Wiki
  http://wiki.up.ac.za/index.php?title=%22Thinking_Outside_the_Borders%22_Leadership_Programme
Expected Outcomes

- **Blog** – report progress on a monthly basis
- Post Blog URL to Wiki
- Project to be **completed** by **15 June 2009**
- **Rounding off** of project **15 – 30 June 2009**
- Post **final report** to blog by **30 June 2009**
- Arrange a **webinar** with facilitators & fellow delegates between **1 – 15 July 2009** – share your project with us by giving an online demo, discussion, etc.
Partnership Project Examples (1)

- Design a **web page** for a public/school library
- Set up an Internet computer workstation (**Internet Café**) for a public/school library
- Establish a **library** e.g. community/preschool library
- **Train librarians** e.g. on library literacy skills, Wiki 2 tools
- Host a **holiday activity program** at a school/public/community library
- Raise funds and **donate books**
- “**Adopt a book**” project
Partnership Project Examples (2)

- Librarian exchange programme
- Take a girl/boy child to work
- Hospitals – reading to children, sick people
- Establish a listener’s library for people with special needs
- Find sponsorships and equip library for people with special needs
- Find sponsors for computer literacy software, and have it installed at a school which has the need
Example Projects

http://blogs.up.ac.za/jcp2008/home.php
JCP-Module
Laerskool Die Poort
Library Project

Power Suite (Library program) busy installing
Brainstorming …

• **Now … 10 minutes**
  Complete Activity Sheet - Project coordinator to present proposed project on Saturday 8 Nov. 10:30 – 12:30

• **In your own time …**
  – During lunch and other breaks
  – In the evenings
  – Via e-mail
  – Chat
  – Skype meetings
  – Etc.
To be a true natural leader …

“Good leaders rarely think in terms of **boundaries**; instead, they think in terms of **opportunities**.”

“The number one characteristic of leaders is the ability to make things happen.”

John C. Maxwell