Community/Public Service Worksheet

Service Category: Educational Outreach Programs

Title: Al's Pals Mentoring Program

Primary UA Contact(s): Star Bloom (name) Community Service Center (Office)

(name) (Office)

Community Partner(s) (if any): Teresa Costanzo (name) Tuscaloosa One Place (Organization)

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Program Description: Al's Pals is a one-on-one mentoring program that develops and fosters a positive relationship between mentor (college volunteer) and mentee (elementary student). Al's Pals was developed in 2010 to meet two goals: 1). academic assistance and social development for at-risk elementary students and 2). leadership development for college students through the potential for a). college mentors becoming Student Leaders b). developing lesson plans and c). leading enrichment activities such as Spanish, dance, music, and nutrition.

Objectives/Outcomes: Increase college students' outreach efforts to the Tuscaloosa K-12 community. Develop students' as leaders who better understand the challenges of K-12 education and ways that they, as college students, can be committed to improving education for at-risk elementary students. Helping college students understand the relationship between poverty and education.

Assessment Measures: Assessment tools are college student reflections, elementary students' test scores, mentor retention and an extensive survey that measures all program aspects including the goals of: 1). Increased knowledge of Tuscaloosa community 2). Understanding one's role in helping communities with challenges 3). Working collaboratively with others.

Results: 25% students returning, 60% perfect attendance of mentors, and on a likert scale from 1-5 (1 strongly disagree and 5 strongly agree). The average score is between a 4 and 5 showing that mentors have increased knowledge of community, their role in helping with community challenges, and how to work collaboratively with others. 85% say the program is

Conclusions: Mentors are meeting the objectives set by Al's Pals, the Community Service Center, and the Division of Student Affairs.

Improvement Actions: Based on our assessments, training of mentors and Student Leaders will be redesigned to
better meet our goals of understanding community and how to work through community challenges encountered in K-12 education.