Community/Public Service Worksheet

Service Category: Educational Outreach

Title: Helping Education/Linking Parents (HELP) Mentoring Program (HELP-MP)

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Program Description: HELP-MP supplements the award-winning HELP Program aimed at reducing school suspensions and expulsions within TCS through a focus on student interests, strengths, and goals. HELP-MP improves K-12 student behavior and provides UA students with experiences that improve future teaching practices. Specifically, HELP-MP pairs UA-COE students enrolled in Introduction to Educational Psychology (BEP 305) as mentors with K-12 students in TCS with two or more out of school suspensions (OSS's) for 45 minute weekly meetings. Weekly meetings consist of a check-in and development of mentee's goals, strengths, and positive life choices using a semi-structured curriculum developed by Drs. Robinson and McDaniel.

Objectives/Outcomes: Goals: (1) Reduce OSS's and increase attendance by 10% per year for TCS students. (2) Improve teaching practices of, and authentic experiences for, UA COE students. (3) Identify principles of effective early warning indicator and student support programs.

Assessment Measures: (1) Attendance, number of referrals and OSS's for TCS students. (2) Weekly reflection journals; observation and field notes of small group recitations for UA COE students. (3) TCS student surveys; feedback from social workers, city personnel, and UA COE students.

Results: 50% decrease in OSS's since 2008 within TCS. The HELP-MP pilot (Fall 2012) paired 27 UA COE student mentors and TCS student mentees who qualified for HELP at least two out of the last three years. By January 2013, only one of the 27 students qualified for the HELP program.
Conclusions:

Improvement Actions: Adapted mentor/mentee pairing procedure to ensure pairings are convenient and occur during non-essential instructional time; Expanded mentoring curriculum from one semester to one academic year; Changed meeting place of mentors/mentees to school library or lunch room for improved safety; Increase communication with other school personnel involved in the project.