Community/Public Service Worksheet

Service Category: Community Empowerment Program

Title: University Place School - Farm to Food to Table Project

Primary UA Contact(s):

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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Community Partner(s) (If any):

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Katie Andoe</td>
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Program Description: The College of Continuing Studies has partnered with University Place Middle School in Tuscaloosa, AL. This local school has approximately 150 students from 6th through 8th grade. This project is through the New College Life Track Program working with all middle school students to teach them the fundamentals of small farming and local food. The students have visited Katie Farms in Coker, AL to learn about farm operations. They will be learning basic planting, growing their own tomato pot gardens with a small above ground garden at the school. This is a yearlong project.

Objectives/Outcomes:

* Participating students will become well informed food consumers
* Students will know the elements of a local food economy
* Students will witness the life cycle of a food source plant
* Students will experience growing a food product

Assessment Measures:

* 70% of eligible students will participate in at least one food consumer workshop
* 70% of eligible students will participate in at least one local food economy workshop
* 70% of eligible students will participate in at least one gardening workshop
* 70% of eligible students will write a reflective essay on the value of the experience

Results:

* 66% of eligible students participated in at least one food consumer workshop
* Not yet implemented -- eligible students will participate in at least one gardening workshop
* Not yet implemented -- eligible students will participate in at least one container gardening workshop

Conclusions:

After the fact, we learned that some students found the fee that the school charges for
transportation to be prohibitive. Thus, they could not go to the farm to engage in the activities and lessons.

**Improvement Actions:** We believe that increased participation in the farm visits will occur by covering the cost of the travel. Each student has to pay a fee to use school provided transportation. The College of Continuing Studies will cover those costs for students for whom this cost is prohibitive.