

The Spring 2010 Xerox Center Urban Experience: Saturday School Program

History:

The Saturday School Program began in Fall 2007 and has run each semester at the downtown Rochester Public Library on South Avenue. The aim of the Saturday School program is to provide academic follow-up for our Rochester cohort of 60 students who enroll in our two week residential summer camp called Rochester Young Scholars Academy at Geneseo (RYSAG). The evolution of the Saturday School Program has created a "Geneseo in the City" community. Most Saturdays during the academic year, a cadre of Geneseo College students travels to the Rochester Public Library to befriend and encourage the academic and personal growth of Rochester youth involved in RYSAG.

Program Goals:

We strive to create authentic relationship with students outside of school in our related academic settings. The goals for our Saturday School Program are to promote independent and critical thinking skills and help kids graduate from high school and enroll in college; another goal is to train and orient pre-service teachers towards an urban centered culturally relevant school curriculum.

Pre-service teachers will:

- Learn About students from culturally diverse backgrounds
During a project based Saturday School program running weekly, 4 hours a week 9-10 days during the semester, college students will involve themselves in providing a Saturday School for Rochester youth. College students will meet a variety of urban students and seeks ways of getting to know them, their families, and their perceptions about schooling on an informal and limited personal basis during the Saturday School.
- Tutor individual students:

Practice differentiating instruction for students based on their needs during a thematic project based program using strategies learned in pre-service teaching classes.
- Teach using an Arts Integrated Approach:

Organize and prepare 9 lessons that will aid in students learning critical thinking skills in a culturally relevant thematic project based hands on program. Digital photography and videography are often used during the program to create final projects which display the students work for the semester.
- Counsel students in their academic and personal development:

Using a conference style format and worksheet, college students will meet with their Rochester students each week to discuss academic and social events at school during the week. College students will advocate and encourage students to improve their grades in public school as well as discuss personal situations that occur and recommend strategies.

- Literacy improvement:

Through Sean's Traveling Trunk of culturally relevant books for urban kids, college students will encourage students to read, reflect and engage students in critical thinking. This happens independently or as a group in a free read book discussions and or using blogs.

Assessment of Program

In conjunction with the office of Academic Intervention services, the Rochester City School District students will be monitored through progress reports and report card grades to measure their learning outcomes.

Participation of Geneseo College Students:

While students' practicum hours can be satisfied with this urban experience, our priority is to provide a continuous uninterrupted service to the RCSD students and to give you a well rounded and meaningful experience. In order to best support our city students and your teaching, we expect our SUNY Geneseo students to follow the program schedule that provides this continuity. (According to Federal and local education officials the minimum practica hours in NYS do not provide enough teaching experience for most pre-service teachers.)

Application Deadline and Questions:

January 25th, 2010, please complete volunteer application on website, <http://xeroxcenter.geneseo.edu> and send back to Norman@geneseo.edu or xeroxcenter@geneseo.edu or leave application in folder outside of South Hall 207.

Two Options:

- 12 week program (must attend minimum 10 sessions) and possibility of being a co-team leader. This entails 40-44 hours working in the Saturday School in Rochester and 10-12 hours of lesson planning at Geneseo. We have 1 hour planning meetings each week before the Saturday School program. 12 weeks occur January 23-April 24 (2 coordinated excused absences are allowed within the 12 program dates).
- 7 weeks entails 28 hours working in program and 7 hours in planning meetings each week before the Saturday School program. 7 weeks occur Jan. 23- March 6th.

Dates:

- Program dates: January 23,30, February 6,13,20,27, March 6, Break, March 27, April 3, April 10, 17,24
- Meeting dates: January 27, 2010 at 2-3:15pm, SOE conference room, 209 South Hall and the rest of planning meeting student schedules.