Stark Teachers Partner With Business To Develop Real-World Lesson Plans

“Why do I need to know this?” It’s a lament often heard from students in the classroom. Indeed, the link between classroom learning and the workplace is often problematic for both teachers and students alike, but not in Stark County. This is because for the last four years a summer internship program has actively placed math and science teachers in government, business, colleges and non-profit agencies with the objective of creating lesson plans not only aligned with Ohio’s academic content standards but also with the needs of the public and private sectors.

Forty-six Stark County teachers worked at 34 institutions this past summer under what is known as the MSP (Math and Science Partnership) Internship Program. The program, coordinated by the Stark County Educational Service Center, is funded by the National Science Foundation.

Teachers spend two weeks at a job site learning how math and science is applied in every day situations by the business or organization. In doing so, teachers also actively perform functions, tasks, or conduct research for their internship sites, lending their own expertise to the host institution.

Lesson plans developed by the teachers were recently showcased at the Professional Education and Conference Center at Kent Stark. The MSP Internship is part of Stark County’s $7.5 million Math and Science Partnership Grant. Additional information on the MSP Internship Program can be obtained from Ms. Cynthia Class, SCESC, at (330) 492-8136.

2006 MSP Teacher Interns and Business Partners

Alliance – Ann M. Hagan and Republic Storage Systems
Cynthia Tudor and Canton City Auditor

Canton City – Bernie Caldwell and Marathon Petroleum Company, LLC
Jean A. Cyders and Whitacre Springs Alternative & Complement. Health Care
Rachel Gibson and Waikem Auto Group
Bobbie Grimm and Community Building Partnership of Stark County
Nichole M. Kosenki and Massillon Container Company/Vail Industries
Tamie Schoepnner-Lamp and Akron Zoo
Dawn Zuniga and the Stark Animal Hospital, Metro Veterinary Hospital
& New Pittsburgh Veterinary Clinic

Canton Local – Jim Gotshall and Brechbuhler Scales, Inc.
Looking At The Issues

Early Childhood Communications Plan
On October 2, Partnership Board Members Judge Michael Howard and Candy Wallace, along with Joe Rochford, attended a special workshop sponsored by the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton to help formulate a communications plan on early childhood care and education.

Disabled Students Transition Plans
Adrienne O’Neill attended a symposium sponsored by ETS in Princeton, New Jersey on October 3 and 4. Titled Closing Achievement Gaps, this symposium focused on transition plans as learning disabled students move from high school to post secondary or work.

OACHE Annual Conference
Adele Gelb attended the Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education Annual Conference, in Zanesville, October 3 - 6. Session topics included: Barriers to Academic Achievement in America, College Retention, High School to College Transition and ACT Study.

On Course for Success
Adele Gelb began informal interviews this week with Canton South graduates participating in On Course for Success – a freshman retention program at Kent State Stark. Ryan Gracia, the On Course advisor, is at Kent two days a week to advise students and link them to Kent’s student services.

Fairless – Betsy Braucher and Akron Zoo
LuAnn Frase and Aultman Health Foundation

Jackson – Roy J. Dria and Malone College
Lee Fortner and Malone College
LeeAnn Peters and Malone College

Lake – Brian DeLap and Lockheed Martin
Matthew B. Westfall and DH Kaiser Company
Kenneth D. Wolfe and EnviroScience, Inc.

Louisville – Andrew Aljancic and Regal Construction Company
Kathy Guidone and Massillon Museum
Chuck Holzer and Sare Plastics

Marlington – Erick Cyders and Martindale Foundation Systems
Steve Miller and Stark Truss Company, Inc.

Massillon – Tami DeBock-Hawkins and Akron Zoo
Chris Gross and Stark County Auditor
Ann Palaski and NRCS-USDA Area Specialists
James Russell and Malone College
Sherry Sunkle and Mercy Medical Center

Minerva – William H. Sedlacek and COLFOR Mfg., Inc.

North Canton – Roman Capper and Harris Day Architects
Steven J. Wood and Malone College

Northwest – Robert D. Klingensmith and The Timken Company

Osnaburg – Jeanne Macro and the Pro Football Hall of Fame
Karrah Stilianos and Malone College

Perry – Stephanie Bennington and County Line Veterinary Service, Inc.
Cortney Blake and the Perry Township Offices
Gayle Tabellion and The Timken Company

Plain – Ted Dudra and McKinley Presidential Library and Museum
Scott Ferrell and Bauder Certified Earth Science, Inc.
Mollie Mallon and Stark County Auditor

Sandy Valley – Jeannette Jernigan and the Akron Zoo
Renee Leslie and Sheri’s Sweets
Sue Platt (also SCESC) and The Timken Company
Ken Richards and the Stark County Engineer

Kent State – David T. Deutsch and North Canton Medical Foundation

Malone – Aimee Granzow (pre-service teacher) and COLFOR Mfg., Inc.