



Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: Expeditionary Learning Calls FAST
Team to Boston Institute

Name: Charles Murphy

Other Team Members:

Program: EL Education Program

Trip Dates: 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001

Location Visited: Boston, MA

Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 02

Project Summary: ELS is a national, nonprofit organization; to improve students achievement; build student character; enhance teacher practices; and instill a positive school culture. The ELS approach promotes rigorous and engaging curriculum; active, inquiry based pedagogy; and a school culture that demands and teaches compassion and good citizenship.

The ELS approach is experiential and project based, involving students in original research -- with experts in their field -- to create high quality products for audiences beyond our classroom. Our team consisting of myself, Bob Rinehart, Danny Moore, Steven Hitchcock, and Josh Cornwell attended the ELS Secondary Institute Summer 2008 in Boston, MA from July 7 to July 12, 2008. Our objective was to learn by doing. It was and is our hope to see the methodology and success of the EL program established in our school. The institute allowed the five of us to experience a shortened expedition which is the basis of EL teaching. Learning Expeditions are interdisciplinary units that are focused on exploring a topic in depth and to expose the learner to the full width of the topic.

The Humanities group explored the human rights case of Sacco and Vanzetti which revolved around the Irish and Italian immigrants in Boston and took place during the second Red Scare (the belief that communism was going to take over the country due to the influx of immigrants).

Career Impact: Professionally I was exposed to the following areas that will assist me in my education career:

- * the use of learning targets which gives the learner and the teacher a goal to achieve during the lesson, the investigation, and/or the expedition.
- * the use of experts, and exactly what an expert could be; it could be a professional who has studied the topic or a lay person who has worked with the topic for years.
- * how to craft a quality investigation and how to pull value for the learner from it so that they may become more engaged with their own learning.
- * how to design and carry out a quality CREW experience that will enrich the lives of the learner and the educator.

Classroom/Community Impact: The benefits to our students at CVHS have been numerous:

- * exposure to a new type of teaching, not just the skill and drill they are used to
- * a new found excitement for learning and a belief that they can learn and be successful.
- * development of a school culture that is positive and open to learning.
- * a belief that all students can learn.
- * a growing perception from the community that at-risk students are not bad people, just in need of re-direction.

Open Response: The value of this program is being felt throughout our school since we have returned from the conference. The team has spearheaded a successful and budding CREW program which is helping our students again find themselves successful in school. The concepts that the team was exposed to while in Boston have been carried over into the classroom and have proven to be successful. With comfort from experience in utilizing these ideas the school will continue to grow and grow and inspire students to learn as much as they can.

The other area this has assisted is the classroom, teachers are using rubrics for learning assessments and giving students daily, weekly and yearlong learning targets that are measured regularly.

Quote: Outward Bound programs are based on a "development-by-challenge" philosophy, eloquently and passionately articulated by its inspirational founder, Dr. Kurt Hahn

Photos:



A Spirit Read from the Grave of Sacco and Vanzetti



A Spirit Read from the Grave of Sacco and Vanzetti



Working in Crew



At Work in Crew



Steve Giving His Lobster Presentation



Bob Giving His Lobster Presentation



Danny Giving His Spirit Read



Josh and Team