



STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

PROGRAM UPDATE

November 28, 2011

VI-D

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW:

Since 1946, Community Education has provided lifelong learning opportunities to meet the educational needs and desires of community members residing in the Centre Region. During the mid-90's, Community Education expanded its programming to include after school enrichment and summer activities for youth (K-12). Each year, Community Education serves approximately 3500 individuals.

As an educational delivery system, Community Education's greatest strength is its ability to extend the resources of the district to the community through a wide variety of external and internal partnerships. These partnerships, a few of which are highlighted below, are the corner stone of Community Education's program.

PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS (EXTERNAL):

Challenging Science Investigations (CSI) – Since Winter 2006, Community Education and secondary Science Education staff have been working with members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), State College branch*, to offer a CSI program for middle school girls. The program's goal is to foster a continued interest in engineering and the sciences. AAUW members and girls in advanced science courses at the High School serve as volunteers with the program. To date, 405 girls have completed the program.

In April 2011, Community Education was the recipient of AAUW's Gateway to Equity Award "in recognition of its work to promote equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change."

*Note: The Secondary Science Department is an "internal" partner for this program.

World Languages After School Enrichment Program– Each Fall, Community Education staff team up with Penn State’s World Languages Education Program to provide district elementary students in grades 1-4 the opportunity to learn a world language. This fall, 56 students enrolled in ***Hace muchos años: Exploring Spanish language and culture through story***. This programming partnership provides student interns an opportunity to gain valuable teaching experience.

Public Issues Forums of Centre County – Since 1980, Community Education has been the home of the Public Issues Forums. CE staff work with a steering committee comprised of community members to plan and implement two forums per year. The forums provide opportunities for public dialogue on topics of national and local interest. They are offered in cooperation with The Centre Daily Times and Schlow Centre Region library. This year’s forums highlight Economic Security (Fall) and Marcellus Shale (Spring).

Focus on Strong Families Conference – For the annual Focus on Strong Families Conference, Community Education and LE/SS staff team up with the Child Development Council of Centre County and Cen-Clear Child Services, Inc. In its 26th year, this day-long conference provides educational sessions for parents, grandparents, child care providers, and any community member that works with children. Over 200 community members attend this family event each winter.

Summer Youth Fair - In Winter 2008, Community Education assumed the administrative responsibilities for the community’s annual Summer Youth Fair, previously run by Penn State Conferences & Institutes. This event offers “one stop shopping” for families, with over 35 vendors in attendance providing information on their summer programs. Over 400 individuals attend each year.

Educational/Recreational Activity Days - Since the mid-90’s, Community Education has offered a program to meet the needs of working parents when there is no school. Approximately 8-10 days per school year are programmed relative to a theme. Each program day averages 25-30 K-6 students. Penn State students from the Recreation & Parks Management Leadership course gain valuable leadership experience as they plan and implement recreational sports on these days.

Literacy Program (ABE/GED/ESL) - With recent budget reductions in literacy programs throughout the state, Community Education now has a subcontract with the Development Center for Adults (I. U. 10) to provide literacy services for adults in the Centre Region. Our higher level ESL classes are now offered on a fee basis and community volunteers provide one-on-one instruction with ABE/GED/ESL students.

Woodturning – A recent programming partnership has been formed with the Nittany Lion Woodturning Guild as members share their woodturning expertise, offering courses for both adults and youth.

Altrusa International Inc. of Centre County Literacy Fundraiser – Community Education’s Advisory Committee and staff have partnered with Altrusa International to sponsor an annual pasta fundraiser to benefit CE’s literacy endowment with the Centre County Community Foundation. Since 2009, \$7561.63 has been raised in support of adult literacy and the endowment is currently valued at \$20,023.98.

PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS (INTERNAL):

Throughout the year, Community Education staff plays a significant role in planning and implementing programs and services that support our neediest learners. These include:

Summer Champs Camp K-5 summer school (Title I)

Summer ESL Program K-10 summer program (LE/SS)

Academic Support Center (High School)

After School Tutor Center (LE/SS)

Houserville Homework Club (Houserville Elementary)

Mental Health Resource Grant - Summit Project (LE/SS)

Parent Education Courses – Community Education staff work closely with the district’s Family Outreach Specialist to provide parent education opportunities throughout the school year.

STE(A)M Initiatives - This past summer, Community Education staff worked with the district’s STEM Coordinator and science/technology/art staff to offer a series of new fee based STEM courses, including: SeaPerch Underwater Robots, The Art & Science of Photography, The Art & Science of Ceramics, and Racing into the Future.

Driver Education - In summer 2011, Community Education assumed responsibility for providing a fee based “in car” Driver Education program; it has been approved as a third party test site. The fee is \$300 for six (6) hours of instruction. To date, 68 students have registered for the program. The theory portion of Driver Education continues to be offered at the High School. This theory and in-car combination enables the district to be an approved Department of Education driver education provider.

Fitness Center Pre-Certification Course - In partnership with the Southside Fitness Center staff, Community Education offers pre-certification courses several times throughout the school year and summer months. This course is required of students who want to use the district’s Fitness Center, many of whom cannot fit it in their course schedule.

Other services/courses:

GED Test Center – Since 2002, Community Education has operated the GED Test Center for Centre County. In 2010-2011, 70 students tested at the Center.

SAT Test Preparation Courses – SAT courses, targeted at our juniors, are offered prior to the fall, winter, and spring SAT test dates. In 2010-2011, 82 students were enrolled.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT:

Some of you may be curious as to, “How do new courses come about?” The primary ways include:

- Individuals in the community with an area of expertise contact the Director with an interest in teaching.
- Suggestions provided on the course evaluations students receive at the conclusion of each course.
- Phone calls and emails from community members requesting courses.
- Course is mandated for a specific kind of work.
- Program surveys are sent periodically to a variety of target groups*.
- Professional staff-environmental scanning (LERN, Learning Resources Network, is an international lifelong learning organization; Course Trends is one of its publications that has been helpful to staff when planning programs).

*An electronic after school enrichment and summer program survey for parents of students enrolled in grades K-5 was completed on Saturday, November 5. 638 parents responded to the survey. This data will be used to plan and implement the 2012 winter/spring and summer program for elementary youth.

ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR:

In addition to the planning and implementing of Community Education’s program throughout the year, the Director of Community Education provides leadership in several district roles, including:

- District Co-chairperson of the United Way Campaign
In 2011, 559 employees (43.27%) participated in the campaign with \$33,036 in contributions.
- District Representative on the Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority
- Community Education’s Endowment Committee member
- AAUW State College - STEM Committee member

COMMUNITY EDUCATION BUDGET:

Community Education receives financial support from the district for three full time positions. These include salary/benefits for:

- Director of Community Education
- Department Secretary
- Registrar

In FY11, this amount totaled \$209,147. The day to day operational expenses are covered by income generated through registration fees from our fee based courses. In FY11, \$159,545 (includes GED Test Center) was generated in income.

With an operational surplus of \$44,123 (includes the state FICA & retirement returns to the district's general fund), Community Education's program cost to the district in FY11 was \$165,024.

In FY11, Community Education received \$139,015 in federal funds for its Adult Basic & Literacy Education program. This amount reflects an 18% reduction in funds from FY09 and an additional 22% reduction in FY11. In 2010-2011, the Adult Education Center served 232 adults. This fiscal year, CE received a subcontract from the Development Center for Adults (I.U. 10) for \$14,800 to provide literacy services in the Centre Region. These literacy courses are offered free to the community.