

21C Network Meeting Minutes

The 2006 Arkansas 21C Fall Network meeting was held October 4th and 5th in Little Rock at the Embassy Suites.

October 4

Vicki Shelby gave the welcome and introductions in the absence of Beth Lapin.

Patty Schumacher conducted an activity involving birth order and personality traits.

Dr. Deborah McAfee, Grant Coordinator for Vilonia School District, presented ideas and advice on grant writing, along with several grant opportunities.

Norma Meek introduced “Stretching your 21C Components”. Participants divided into groups and rotated among six different sessions that focused on each of the 21C components.

Patty Schumacher conducted a session titled “Embedding 21C in your School Culture”. She described 12 characteristics of schools that have successfully achieved this goal.

Vicki Shelby discussed the 2007 national 21C conference in Little Rock in July. She brought the network up to date on the planning so far and gave everyone an opportunity to choose a committee to work with. A sign-up sheet with committee assignments was available.

Susan Simmons showed the display board which will be available to display at state conferences during the year. This board will have information about Schools of the 21st Century programs.

Norma Meek presented information on effective parent-teacher conferences with a Power Point presentation, “Collaborating for Success”. This PowerPoint will be on Yale’s website for those participants who wish to use it.

“Teamwork and Leadership Skills” was the next presentation. The five dysfunctions of a team were discussed along with the KASH (Knowledge, Attitude, Skills, Habits) Model.

The last session for the day was “Principals as Champions of Universal Preschool Education”. It was reported that training was held for elementary principals to enable them to be advocates for preschool education. Since preschool expansion will be a topic in the upcoming legislative session in January, participants were encouraged to practice personal advocacy concerning this issue.

October 5

Participants met at breakfast to network and meet with their mentors.

Dee Cox, Coordinator of Special Programs for ADE, started the day with an update regarding special programs available through the department. She included information on the Early Childhood Focus Group, state summary information on the effectiveness of

preschool on students' scores, an overview of the Coordinated School Health Program, and an update on after school programs. She announced that Parent Involvement Modules were available on the ADE website. These modules contain many resources and ideas for schools to empower parents and the community to get involved in the educational process.

Tonya Russell provided news from the Early Childhood Division. She reported that she is currently working in legislative committee as an advocate for an expansion in early childhood education. She stated that there will be a statewide release of information showing that significant gains in school readiness are directly attributed to the expansion of preschool. Other updates from Ms Russell included rate increases in the voucher program and ABC rules and regulations.

The next session focused on Strengthening Families, which is a program designed to build partnerships between child welfare systems and providers to better serve children. Arkansas is one of seven pilot states involved in this project and more information can be obtained at the web site www.cssp.org.

Jennifer Harris, from ASU, presented information on the Arkansas Out of School Network. This network was formed to promote the statewide expansion and development of quality after school programs. She announced that a legislative committee hearing is currently scheduled for November 9th to solicit state funding for after school programs. More information about this network can be obtained at www.aosn.org.

Marilyn Chambers spoke to the group about the Invest Early Program through Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families. This program is soliciting additional support for ABC to fully fund the program as pledged. The advocates make visits to the capitol and contact legislators. Contact Connie Whitfield or Paul Kelly at Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families to get involved in the Invest Early Program.

Mavis Elrod presented the new 21C Network Membership Application to the group for review and comments. She encouraged each 21C site to network with neighboring schools to encourage participation.

In conclusion, Vicki Shelby asked for suggestions for a spring meeting date. The group consensus was March 7th. Conference planning will be finalized at this meeting. The Fall Network meeting concluded at 11:00 a.m.