



EDUCATION AND LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS: SERVICE LEARNING

Presented By:

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Family Literacy Capstone Project

Under the direction of Dr. Mona Thompson, the Family Literacy Capstone Project, in collaboration with Hueneme Elementary School District, provides CSUCI senior Liberal Studies students with the opportunity to assist 4th grade children and their family members in reading. The fourth graders and their families are invited to attend a series of after school classes designed to improve the child's reading skills and give the family members strategies for reading at home. CSUCI students, after learning teaching reading strategies from experienced fourth grade teachers, work in pairs coaching parents and pupils every week for a semester. State standard test scores for pupils in the program, were markedly higher than the scores of those not in the program. Teachers indicated that pupils from par-



ticipating families had improved attendance, completed their homework, and displayed a more positive attitude toward school. CSUCI students are able to give back to the community while making career decisions about entering the profession of education.

Introduction to Education:

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY LEVEL

Introduction to Education is taught exclusively at local schools with high enrollments of students learning English as a second language, and students who are economically disadvantaged. One five-year partnership is with Ocean View School District, where CSUCI students learn first hand about teaching, learning, and critical educational issues. They tutor in kindergarten to grade three classrooms and reflect on their own teaching and learning as they keep reflective journals of their experiences and observations. Several secondary schools have also partnered with CSUCI in service learning similar arrangements with in-class, seminar and tutoring experiences sited at the schools. The schools are Frank Middle School in the Oxnard Elementary School District and Hueneme and Rio Mesa High Schools in the Oxnard High School District. Professors Robert Bleicher, Merilyn Buchanan, Manuel Correia, Dori Jones, and Francisco Garcia facilitate these service learning partnerships.

Under the leadership of Dr. Maria Denney, Elementary Education Practicum in Individual Differences is de-



signed to provide Liberal Studies students with practical experience tutoring children in diverse classrooms at Las Posas Elementary School in Camarillo. The students develop a citizen/consumer's understanding of classroom processes, teaching, and learning for children at educational risk. Students learn the basic principles of curriculum adaptation and behavior management in response to children's individual learning differences. The capstone course provides students with opportunities to observe, assist, tutor, and discuss elementary grade children's performance on a variety of learning activities.

Early Reading Partnership

Under the leadership of Dr. Jill Leafstedt and Maria Denney, the **Early Reading Project II** provides teacher training opportunities to undergraduate students interested in pursuing a career in education with at-risk learners, including children from non-English speaking backgrounds. Each student researches early intervention techniques, receives training in research based early intervention and conducts a reading intervention at a local elementary school. Students work in pairs at local elementary schools to implement and evaluate their intervention. The final product is a report distributed to participating teachers summarizing the intervention and results for each student that participated. At the heart of this project is the opportunity for pre-service teachers to teach a closely monitored intervention and reflect on their practices as teachers and how they impact students from various backgrounds with diverse abilities and skills. CSUCI students have provided early reading interventions to young children in Glen City Elementary School, Santa Paula.

