

FY08 New Look Final Report Format

Title of your New Look Project: "Discovering Your Career"

Partners: Fairfield Community High School & Cisne High School

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Special Populations Targeted: (check all that apply)

X-Nontraditional (for gender) Training and Employment

X-Economically Disadvantaged

Implementation Date(s): 10/22/07

Goals:

A. List long and short-term goals for your New Look Project.

The long-term goals were to prepare secondary education students for post-secondary enrollment or careers and help them maintain focused on their chosen goals and area of study. The short-term goals of this project were to ease the transition of participating students from high school to college, increase number of students who attend college, get students to take a serious look at their future goals and career options, and help the students decide on a future career.

B. Explain how those particular goals were aligned with your New Look Project.

Students were introduced to career options aided by the DISCOVER interest inventories, given a tour of Frontier's campus, received hard copy information about college programs and majors, and listened to college instructor presentations.

C. How did you plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the project in meeting the stated goals?

The Director of Career Advisement will compare the "Discovering Your Career" participants with the enrolled Frontier students upon the participant's high school graduation. This will give me the number of students who enroll at Frontier after participating in this project.

D. Describe plans for sustainability and for accomplishment of the long-term project goals.

The Director of Career Advisement plans to continue to use grant money to fund this project. If the New Look grant administrators decide to discontinue Frontier's funding for this program, I will attempt to attain other funding to continue this project. The teachers are really interested in continuing to participate in this program. The participating students have said that this information was really helpful to them. This project will continue progress in meeting the long-term goals by introducing high school students to college programs, services, and campus and to career options.

Activities:

Describe activities implemented and/or products developed.

The Director of Career Advisement visited Resource Management, Business Principles, and ACT/college preparation classes at two different local high schools. The participating students were administered the DISCOVER interest inventories which includes career-oriented questions. Upon completion of paper copies of the inventories, the Director of Career Advisement created each student a user account and entered the inventory responses in the online program. There were 148 students who participated including sophomores, juniors, and seniors in high school. The following week, each class visited Frontier's campus for the "Discovering Your Career" program. The students were shown how to access their individual DISCOVER user accounts and had their inventory results

explained. The students were also provided with a folder including information about Frontier and college in general, received a tour of campus, and the opportunity to attend a few presentations given by Frontier instructors. At the presentations, students received information specific to Frontier offered programs and services. The students were also provided with refreshments during their visit.

Evaluation:

A. What evaluation methods and tools were used in assessing your New Look Project? Please submit a copy of your evaluation tool, if applicable.

Evaluation of “Discovering Your Career” will be done by checking Frontier enrollment against the high school students who participated in the project. One of the short-term goals was to increase the number of students who attend college after graduating from high school. Unfortunately, the participating students who attend Frontier after graduation are the only ones that can be tracked and reported. Due to confidentiality laws, participating students who attend other colleges after graduation cannot be tracked. Since this was the first year of implementation for this project and the year in school of the participating students varied (sophomores, juniors, and seniors participated), a true evaluation will not be possible until after the students graduate.

B. What conclusions were drawn during your assessment? Did you meet your short –term goals? Did you make progress toward meeting your long-term goals?

Two of the short-term goals of the “Discovering Your Career” project were met. The DISCOVER inventories got the students to think about their college and career goals. Also, by participating in the activities on campus, the students were introduced to a college campus, college instructors, programs, and services. This helped ease their transition from a high school environment to a college environment.

C. What plans do you have for utilizing evaluation feedback in planning for similar activities?

Implementing the use of a student evaluation will be attempted in next year’s program. Lack of time did not permit the use of an evaluation system during this year’s project. The high schools only allowed a short amount of time to fit in all of the project activities.

D. What outcomes or changes occurred to your program as a result of the project?

A change that may be made for next year is to add eighth grade students. If students are reached before enrolling in high school, they may be able to choose high school classes that will better prepare them for their program or career of interest.

E. Which of the following Illinois Core Performance Indicators did your project assist your program in reaching?

Secondary

X-3S1	Secondary School Completion
X-4S1	Student Graduation Rates

F. Please provide information regarding the impact of your project, including: collaborating agencies, total number of students served, total number of educators served, materials distributed, and other pertinent quantitative information.

The Director of Career Advisement collaborated with two local high schools, 148 high school students participated, and three teachers participated in the “Discovering Your Career” program. The distributed materials included: the Steven’s Amendment added to the bottom of the “What are my career options” document, Frontier program pamphlets, Frontier pencils and rulers, “The facts about college” page, the Illinois Department of Employment Security website page with logon information, the IDES career outlooks and descriptions poster, the “Value of Education” page, a copy of the IECC catalog page of IAI core curriculum classes, Frontier tuition information, a campus map, the DISCOVER inventories and printouts, and the Director of Career Advisement contact information.

G. Provide feedback received from organizers, participants, and/or observers on the effectiveness of your program or product.

Since no written evaluation was completed by participants, only verbally expressed feedback was received. Some students remarked that they gained a lot of useful information and experiences. The teachers

expressed their interest in continued participation in this program since they felt that the students need to hear the provided information.

H. Based on the results of your evaluation, feedback, and personal reflection, what modifications could be made to improve your New Look Project?

Improvement on the project could be made by reaching a younger age group to better prepare them for choosing high school classes they will need for programs or careers of interest. Also, a larger variety of activities and information could be provided if more time to spend at Frontier was allowed by the schools.

Dissemination:

- A. Describe plans for dissemination of the project accomplishments, including record of or plans for statewide conference display/presentation.** The results and feedback from the project will be used in an attempt to gain funding to allow the continuation of this project. This will be important for when ICSPS becomes unwilling to continue to fund the “Discovering Your Career” project. This project information was presented at the ICSPS New Look Showcase in Pekin, Illinois on 5/1/2008.

Technical Assistance Feedback:

- A. In general, your experience with the FY08 New Look Project was ...**
X-Good
- B. The most valuable aspect(s) of the FY08 New Look Project was...**
X-The financial support
- C. Did you request any technical assistance for your FY08 New Look Project?**
X-Yes
- D. Overall, how was your experience with your Technical Assistance Liaison?**
X-Excellent
- E. If anyone were to ask you if the money devoted to the New Look Project has made a difference in your institution’s ability to serve special populations, what would you say?**
Yes, I would not be able to effectively offer this program without the New Look grant money.
- F. Will you consider applying for another New Look Project in the future?**
X-Yes

<u>FY08 New Look Final Budget</u>	<u>FY08 Final Budget</u>
Beginning Balance	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
Salaries	\$
Benefits	\$
Contractual Services	<u>\$910.00</u>
General Supplies and Materials	<u>\$511.60</u>
Travel Expenses	<u>\$78.40</u>
Other Expenditures* (See Below)	\$
<u>Total Award Expended</u>	<u>\$1500.00</u>
* Provide detailed description of any expenses listed in the “Other Expenditure” category.	\$