

McLean County Community COMPACT

SPRING 6TH GRADE PARTNERSHIPS WRAP-UP

HILLARY SMITH

WITH over 100 local businesses partnering with almost all 6th Grade classrooms in McLean County, the Spring 6th Grade Business/Education Partnerships concluded in May after another successful year. At the end of each partnership, the students enjoy a fieldtrip to the partnering business. The students have the opportunity to spend some time at the business and typically present a culminating project to finish up the partnership.

In the picture on the right, 6th grade students from Chiddix Junior High School pose for a picture with business partners from Katie's School of Insurance during their final session at Illinois State University's State Farm Business building. After a tour of the facility, the students presented their final projects to their peers, teachers, and others from Katie's School of Insurance. The students then enjoyed an ice cream social outside of the State Farm building.

As evaluations for the spring 6th Grade Business/Education Partnerships came back to the COMPACT, we learned just how appreciated and educational these partnerships have been for the 6th graders, their teachers, and the business partners alike. When asked how the students received the partnership, one teacher commented, "The

students LOVED it. It was an exciting and interesting experience they won't forget". Another teacher responded, "Our students enjoyed this program and seemed very receptive and enthusiastic about their tasks".

Among some of the culminating projects and final sessions that various 6th grade classrooms engaged in this year were a book drive for New Orleans Public Library, a fieldtrip to Schnucks, putting together a 'job fair', a tour and behind-the-scenes view of operations at the Chateau Hotel,



6th Graders from Chiddix enjoy their final session with Katie's School of Insurance with a field trip to ISU's State Farm Business building

and a mock election with the County Clerk.

ATTENTION ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS!

IN the past our members have been extremely helpful in donating small items that we use as contest 'giveaways' in our student programs. As you clean out your closet and work space this summer, please keep the Compact in mind! Donations can be brought to the COMPACT office at 402 N. Hershey Road anytime. As always, we greatly appreciate your generous support!

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ISU AGRICULTURE: 100 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

EMILY DEREGE

THE McLean County Community Compact held its last council meeting at the end of May. The council had the opportunity to hear from Dr. Rhykerd from the ISU Agriculture department. Rhykerd spoke about the ISU Agriculture department, and the 100 year milestone they celebrated this year. The department is growing by the semester, and currently has about 300 students attending both graduate and undergrad courses. There are several different programs that are associated with agriculture including agribusiness, agrieducation, and agronomy. There are a high percentage of students from this department that graduate and find jobs right out of college. The Ag department has also been able to maintain and create new programs with donations being used towards the soybean area, scholarships, and a computer program. The ISU farm conducts research studies and has many field trips yearly from schools in the area. The horticulture center is growing rapidly, those that have not been there before are urged to visit. The center receives over 3,000 visitors each year, and they strive to educate and connect people with nature.

In addition, the ISU Ag department is a 6th grade partner. Since 2007, Dr. Kerry Tudor, ISU Ag professor has helped to coordinate this program each year. This particular year they were assigned to a team at Chiddix Jr. High School. Kerry spoke about his experience there. Each week Kerry creates different sessions which included research and genetics where the students have the opportunity to put together DNA bracelets, learn about ethanol, transplant seedlings to learn the importance of plants, learn about soil and water and the scarcity of both, and visit the ISU Farm and Horticulture center. Tudor believes that urban students are often times farm removed from agriculture studies, and this program helps to enhance those understandings.

The council had the opportunity to hear from Hillary Smith, Compact intern. Hillary discussed student Government Day and the success that we had with the program this year. We partner each year with the McLean County Government. Unique to this year was a

mock legislative debate about the wind farms. Students really enjoyed learning about legislative debates and enjoyed the mock presentation. We heard great feedback from students and teachers that participated in the program.

Last the Evelyn Cobb "Above and Beyond Spirit Award" was presented to Rich Beal for his outstanding efforts and advocacy of Compact programs. We also honored council retirees which included Dr. Larry Dodds, Ridgeview Superintendent and Terry Lindberg, McLean County Administrators.

The next Compact Council meeting will be Wednesday September 28th at 7:30 a.m. at the Farm Bureau Building.



A presentation from Dr. Rhykerd, ISU Agriculture Department, marks the 100 year milestone of the department

2011-2012 COMPACT Council Meetings

*all located at the Farm Bureau Building, 402 North Hersey Road, in Bloomington, unless otherwise announced.

- September 28, 2011 at 7:30 a.m.
- November 16, 2011 at 7:30 a.m.
- January 25, 2012 at 7:30 a.m. (TBD)
- April 4, 2012 at 7:30 a.m.
- May 23, 2012 at 7:30 a.m.

TPC TEAMBUILDING LUNCHEON

EMILY DEREGE

CED staff member, Emily Derege is the secretary and member to the Transition Planning Committee (TPC) of this region. The group was formed after common interests were brought together in an effort to help students with disabilities transition from school to work. The committee consists of social service agencies, parents, and high school vocational coordinators/special education teachers. The group meets monthly, and in May has an annual teambuilding luncheon.

At the luncheon the group discusses plans for the following school year in regards to what speakers and presentations they are interested in, nominating a new chair, and discussing goals of the sub-committees. Last year, the group created sub-committees with different activities which consist of: grant research, parenting and disabilities expo, summer program, and parenting and mentoring group. The group is proud to say they have made many accomplishments this year which included expansion of the disabilities expo, launch of the parenting and mentor group, and several grant awards. We look forward to expanding and working even more on these sub-committee topics next school year!

YOUTHLEADS 2011

EMILY DEREGE

In June, McLean County Junior and Senior high school students had the opportunity to participate in a youth leadership program called YouthLEADS. The YouthLEADS concept was formed by a sub-group of the 2008 Leadership McLean County class of the Chamber of Commerce adult leadership program. They were interested in forming a program for youth involving leadership skills and traits. The students undergo a short application process and are hand-picked to participate in this program.



The group volunteering at the Midwest Food Bank during the Engagement Session

Through six sessions in June, students have the opportunity to engage in teambuilding activities with students from other schools, learn leadership traits from leaders in the community, and engage in various community activities. The idea of the program is to give those students that are interested in becoming leaders in their schools and community the opportunity to obtain some leadership training. By the end of the program, our hope is that students will use the information they were presented with to become youth leaders in this community. The sessions are coordinated as follows:

Youth: students gather for orientation day and participate in teambuilding activities to get acquainted with others.

L: Leadership-Meet leaders from local government and learn what you can do to get involved and make your voice heard.

E: Engagement-Learn about community service organizations such as the Midwest Food Bank, Community Health Care Clinic, and the Occupational Development Center.

A: Awareness-Gain an awareness and understanding of economic, diversity, and other issues impacting McLean County.

D: Development- Interact with local business owners and discuss what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur.

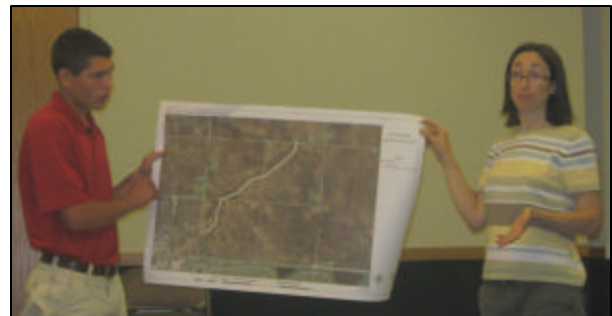
S: Service-Graduate and focus on the future with an emphasis on sustainable community service.



YouthLEADS group participating in teambuilding activities during the first YouthLEADS session



ISU Performing Arts students teach YouthLEADS students some Shakespeare during the Awareness Session



Town Planner of Normal, Mercy Davison, and Sheriff Mike Emery speak during the Leadership Session

EVELYN COBB “ABOVE AND BEYOND SPIRIT AWARD”

EMILY DEREGE

THE 2011 Evelyn Cobb “Above and Beyond Spirit Award” was presented to Rich Beal, of State Farm Bank. The Evelyn Cobb award is given to a council member that exhibits extra support and advocacy of COMPACTY programs throughout the year.

Rich has been a long time friend and advocate of COMPACT programs. He has served two full terms on the Compact Executive Committee, and one term serving as the Co-chair. He currently sits on the executive committee and is the secretary. Rich also is the chair of the 6th grade Business/ Education Partnership program. This is a well deserved awardee!



Rich Beal of State Farm Bank receives the 2011 Evelyn Cobb “Above and Beyond Spirit Award” at the May 2011 Council Meeting

COUNSELOR LUNCHEON

EMILY DEREGE

THE McLean County Counselors and the Heart of Illinois Counselors met for an annual end of the year luncheon in May. Each year, Compact hosts this event for the counselors in McLean County and beyond in an effort to thank them for their help during the school year. Often times the counselors help to promote Compact programs to the students. It is with their help that we exceed registration for many of our programs each year. Emily Deregé provided the counselors with an overview of the Compact programs. Many of them are veterans; however, there were a few new people this year that are not entirely familiar with our programs. We also provided a cake to honor those counselors that are retiring. This year, Deb Cochran from Bloomington High School and Bonnie Vericella from Central Catholic High School were honored for their many years of counseling service to the students at each high school. They have truly been tremendous in helping Compact staff connect students with programs. We thank the counselors for all the hard work and help that they provide for us.

COMPACT TO LAUNCH NEW WEBSITE!!!!

The Compact will launch a new website late summer. We have been needing to update and revamp the current organizational website. We are adding new program updates, including meeting resources, and creating a user-friendly website for Compact volunteers, council members, and the community. We hope this will increase our visibility in the community. Should you want any information to be present on our website, we may accommodate you. Please stay-tuned to hear more about the debut of the website when it is complete.



From the Compact staff, have a great summer!



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the McLean County Community Compact (the Corporation) is to offer support to school-age youth to help them become self-sufficient, contributing citizens through a coalition of business, education, community, and government.

The Corporation facilitates the preparation of school-age youth for a more effective transition from formal schooling to the world of work.

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