Cultivating Community Relationships:

Bridging the gap between high school CTE programs and libraries

Tammie Busch, Jacob Del Rio, Debra Casimere, DeAnna Anderson

CELEBRATING A CULTURE OF CARE

Missouri Library Association Annual Conference
Oct. 4-6, 2023 - Columbia, MO

Holiday Inn Executive Center
2200 Interstate 70 Dr SW, Columbia, MO
65203

Introductions

Tammie Busch
Asst. Prof
Catalog & Metadata
Librarian,
Southern Illinois
University
Edwardsville

Jacob Del Rio
Asst. Prof
Electronic
Resources Librarian,
Southern Illinois
University
Edwardsville

Debra Casimere
Secondary
Coordinator,
Charles Sumner
High School

DeAnna Anderson
Teen Specialist,
St. Louis Public
Library

DLCTE

How did we get here?

Bringing the Diverse Librarianship Career Training and Education Program to Life

INSTITUTE of **Museum** and **Library** SERVICES

DLCTE

Positioning Library and Information Science Graduate Programs for 21st Century Practice

- Sands, A.E., Toro, S., DeVoe, T., Fuller, S., and Wolff-Eisenberg, C. (2018). Positioning Library and Information Science Graduate Programs for 21st Century Practice. Washington, D.C.: Institute of Museum and Library Services.

- "Increasing the diversity and retention of LIS students and practitioners."

- Recruiters need to go where diverse populations are, and that exposing students to the value of careers in LIS needs to begin as early as middle school and high school.

DLCTE

The Original Grant Team:
Tammie Busch
Simone Williams
Lora Del Rio
Elizabeth Kamper
Shelly McDavid

DLCTE

Our Expectations

Project Design: The overarching goal is to make a positive, lasting impression on students by providing them with individualized culturally responsive mentorship and real-life experiences in a library/cultural organization setting that will encourage them to explore and pursue potential careers as library professionals.

Project Goals:

• Recruit two cohorts of five high school seniors

• Partner with library/cultural organizations

• Provide individualized culturally responsive mentorship

• Expose students to networking and professional development

• Develop and disseminate a toolkit that includes a curriculum

DLCTE

Julia Davis Branch

East St. Louis School District 189 Career Technical Education (CTE) Programs

SIUE East St. Louis Learning Resource Center

East St. Louis School Public Library

Partners: Cohorts 1 & 2

DLCTE

Cohort 1: The Reality

- Award notification date left no time for recruitment
- You might be recruiting parents and students
- It's okay if you don't like to read
- Finished cohort 1 with one student
- Lots can change from spring to fall

DLCTE

Cohort 2: The Reality

- Zero East St. Louis students interested in cohort 2
- How we recovered:
    - Contacted Julia Davis Branch Manager John Newcomer
    - Email of desperation to CTE teacher Debra Casimere
    - Debra identifies 4 students ready to participate
    - DeAnna Anderson and Jacob Del Rio join the team

DLCTE

Cohort 3: The Reality

- Six students interested in cohort 3
- Cohort 2 students had good things to say about the program
- Invited to Sumner to recruit in person
- Julia Davis: A welcoming and engaging environment for teens
- ILA sponsoring cohort 3 students at their annual conference

DLCTE

Julia Davis Branch

St. Louis Public Schools, College and Career Readiness Department, Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Partners: Cohort 3

DLCTE

Working with Julia Davis Branch at SLPL

- And one day, Calvin appeared "I'm going to be working with you."

- Connection with the community

- Volunteers hired to work at SLPL

- Technological advancement/creative experience renovation, bridging this back to the CTE students and how they connect that with the community

- Having teens in the library/more teens coming into the library

- Positive impact it had on students

DLCTE

What is Career & Technical Education (CTE)?

- How is CTE Set up At Sumner High School?

- The most popular pathways that students have explored

- Libraries have not traditionally been part of CTE programs

- How to sell libraries/internship to students

- How to identify students who are interested in CTE at a library?

- Differences between Cohorts 2 and 3 (i.e. Junior Work Day)

DLCTE

Partnership Outcomes

What we have learned over the past two years

Positive Outcomes

- Students enjoyed the curriculum, Summer Institute, and ALA Annual Conference
- Students enjoyed working with kids
- Some students really enjoyed the IT/Tech Help aspect of the job
- Brings younger people into the library
- Successful mentorship stories shaping students' futures
- Co-hort 2 students shared positive stories with underclassmen

DLCTE

Lessons Learned

- begin recruitment in spring
- workplace proximity to high school
- get parents on board in addition to students
- students need diverse, engaging work
- clear and comprehensive documentation
- disciplinary decisions should be a decision of all involved (mentor, teacher, and workplace supervisor)

Obstacles:

- recruiting
- transportation
- paying students through grant
- students may not engage or be interested in the program like expected
- students may not meet program expectations
- "employee" versus "volunteer"

DLCTE

Why Does High School CTE Work So Well in Public Libraries

- Evening and Weekend Hours to Work Outside of School

- CTE Students May Already be familiar with workplace branch

- Students working in youth services or teen sections can work directly with library staff who work with teens full-time

- Presence of teen CTE students can draw in teen patrons

DLCTE

DLCTE Toolkit

Creating a replicable program

Check out the DLCTE Toolkit

- Visit https://iris.siue.edu/dlcte

- Content includes: partnerships agreements, a student job description, curriculum, mentorship best practices, program evaluations, assessment data, and other supporting documentation

- Creative Commons license allows others to adapt and re-shape to fit their institution

DLCTE

Questions?

Thank you!

Tammie Busch
tabusch@siue.edu

Jacob Del Rio
jdelrio@siue.edu

DeAnna Anderson
danderson@slpl.org

Debra Casimere
Debra.Casimere@slps.org