

# Faculty Professional Growth Summer Project Final Report Draft

Use this Word template to compose your responses to questions that are part of the new online summer project application form, and take advantage of spell checking. You can then cut and paste this to the online system.

Do not bother with fancy formatting as none is preserved in the online form.

## Summer Project Title

Strategies for Empowering Students Project

## Abstract

Write a concise summary with descriptive information about your project, location, time span, your relationship to it, etc. Include specific information-- since you have completed your project, your knowledge is valuable and can be shared with your colleagues (200 word limit).

The "On Course I Workshop" was held in Marriottsville, MD from May 23-26, 2004. This was a 4-day workshop. This workshop included over 50 participants from across the country from various disciplines in higher education. Our purpose was to obtain training for the GateWay Counseling Department on new strategies for empowering students. This was a group project that included Denise Menchaca, Nina Mares and RaNae Healy. We not only learned new strategies to help students in our classes, but were replenished in the process. Because of this workshop we have adopted the textbook, On Course and are using it this semester in our Counseling and Personal Development classes. The training improved our skills to facilitate activities in our classes; we gained new skills as facilitators both in our teaching as well as in counseling. These new found skills are being transferred to the students in helping them make "wise choices" and "accepting personal responsibility". Other concepts that we are using to help students be successful include mastering self-management; employing interdependence and adopting lifelong learning along with increasing self-awareness.

This was a very successful summer project.

## Outcomes

In a paragraph or two describe what worked well. Did you accomplish your objective(s)? Were you able to complete your summer project as written? If not, what did you modify and why? What did not go as well as expected, if anything? Were there any surprises? **Note: Use the questions as guides for your outcomes. Do not include detailed list of workshops attended, speakers who presented, or a list of items you have seen, heard, or read.**

We did accomplish our objectives both individually and as a group. This was a great collaboration effort that facilitated professional growth individually, as well as a team. We enjoyed the workshops that we attended and brought back new skills to help us as faculty and in the counseling department. We are implementing this training and concepts learned to empower our students at the GateWay college.

On a personal note, I have increased my skills and enjoyed the project immensely. There were no surprises, except for the cicadas that erupted during the time of our workshop in Maryland. That was an unexpected entomological surprise. One which I didn't care for, as I have never seen such a mass of cicadas in my life. They were huge and, oh so loud!! Quite disgusting but again, an interesting phenomenon.

**Professional Growth**

Your own professional growth is a large part of your project. Your professional growth is important to you, your students, your college, and possibly other colleagues. How did project affect you professionally? What skills did you learn? What environments were you working in and how might your summer project influence your teaching or other responsibilities? Did you gain a different perspective? Was it professionally valuable for you?

Personally, this was an excellent workshop that not only helped rejuvenate me but provided replenishment for rest and relaxation. Although the workshop itself was filled and very busy, it provided an atmosphere of professional growth with the opportunity of meeting other professionals in various disciplines from across the country.

Most of the skills are concepts that I know already as a counselor. However, it was very useful to be up-dated and have a refresher course on new techniques and ways of facilitating groups and classes. It was also helpful to be in an environment of different disciplines that had different perspectives than did I regarding student success. The project has influenced me in many ways by inspiring me to do better and to see things from different and various perspectives. It was most valuable to me professionally.

**Dissemination**

How will you share this information with your colleagues, department, students, or campus?

Currently, we have brought this information back to our college and have disseminated it in various ways. First of all, we [the counseling department] have implemented Dr. Downing's strategies and we are using his textbook, On Course in our Success classes, the CPD150 classes. These new strategies for empowering students are being utilized both in our counseling courses as well as helping students individually in counseling sessions. We are training other faculty members in these new strategies. I have been meeting with campus administrators and committee people to share this information. I am part of the faculty development committee and have arranged with our administration to have these concepts brought to our campus.

The end result is that we are implementing these strategies in our classes and will be bringing Dr. Skip Downing to the college to provide an in-service for the faculty as well as training for the student service personnel in January 2005.