



The TEACHER CENTER of Broome County
Teacher Study Group Grant Award
Summer 2003

FINAL REPORT
DOCUMENT PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES

STUDY GROUP TOPIC: Family and Consumer Science: Where Academics Merge with Real Life”

GROUP MEMBERS: Joanne Briggs, Pat Barber, Ann Laczak, Jackie Kresge, Libbie Hobart_

The final report must be word-processed and submitted both in print and on disk using this form. Include information under each of the following headings.

Describe the initial goal of the group noting any adjustments that had to be made as time passed.

Our goal was to bring together Family & Consumer Science Educators (F&CS) from several school districts to develop at least four lessons that meet the learning standards for F&CS and at least one other area. We developed five lessons in the F&CS areas of careers, childcare, family, and money management that met the above mentioned criteria.

In addition to our primary goal we accomplished two additional goals.

- Met with Gail Barraco, Director School Library System, to access websites connected to standards, i.e.: CERF, AskEric
- Met with Jan Orzel, Media Services Specialist at BOCES, to learn about resources available and how to access and increase holdings in the media center for F&CS.

Describe the ACTION PLAN that the group followed.

Each member of the group shared their current course load and content to identify areas of similarity. The support materials had been purchased in advance so we were able to review them on the first day. We also shared materials that we currently use in our programs with the group. Copies of the Learning Standards from all instructional areas were obtained and we discussed how F&CS is currently supporting them. Individually we selected a lesson or mini-unit to develop.

Gail Barraco and Jan Orzel approached us with an offer to share their expertise with us, which we gratefully accepted.

Describe how the action plan was implemented.

We met three consecutive days at the BOCES Instructional Center. Each morning we met as a group to examine the standards, review current materials and identify learning techniques. Then in the afternoon we worked individually on lesson plans.

How has participating in this study group changed you as a teacher? Have any of your teaching practices changed?

This experience has raised our awareness of the standards outside our curriculum area. We recognize that many of these standards are being met within our courses. This grant gave us an opportunity to document five lessons that link multiple standards together and we will be more intentional in making connections with other areas of study in the future.

What evidence is there that student achievement is improving as a result of participating in this study group? What kind of differences are you observing in your students?

Because we met as a summer study group we haven't had an opportunity to bring our new knowledge and materials back to our individual classrooms. We anticipate that students will be made more aware of how the knowledge and skills learned in F&CS link to other areas of study. We also expect that their success rate in all areas will increase as teachers work together to support the achievement of academic standards for all students.

What evidence is there that the goals of the study group have/have not been met?

Each teacher has returned to their own district with five lesson plans that are challenging, purposeful, integrated and standards based. In addition many new materials and teaching techniques were shared. A collection of materials that connect F&CS standards to other academic areas has been started at the Teachers Center.

Comment on the value of the study group process? Did it work for you?

The study group process gave us the opportunity to network with colleagues. Because we teach in several districts this experience allowed us to spend a block of time together. We all thought that it was a positive experience and would like to continue with another summer study grant in the future.

How can we make the study group program better?

Allocate more money out of the Teacher Center budget for summer study groups. It is beneficial to be able to work together when larger blocks of time are available. We were able to focus on our goal and complete more than we originally anticipated.