Learning With Public Purpose Teacher Survey

Learning with Public Purpose (LPP) is a way to address the issues of rural community development and school improvement at the same time. When student work in school helps to improve conditions in the community, young people develop the habits of service while deepening their understanding of content in core subjects.

You participated in an LPP project during the fall of 2005 or the spring of 2006. We would like to thank you for the investment you made in your community and young people by participating in this project. Please help us improve on future LPP work by taking 15-20 minutes to complete the following survey and return it to Dr. Emeka Emekauwa at POB 28627, Raleigh, NC 27611. If you are responding to this survey online, please return it to emekaeze@nc.rr.com. Your response will be strictly confidential.

I. Project Information

1. Project Name: _____

   School:_____ Location: _____

2. During which semester did you work with an LPP project?
   - ☐ Fall 2005
   - ☐ Spring 2006
   - ☐ Other _____

3. How would you describe the LPP project in the course that you taught or are teaching?
   - ☐ Central to the course
   - ☐ A major assignment in the course
   - ☐ A minor assignment in the course
   - ☐ An optional assignment in the course
   - ☐ An extra-curricular activity not included in any course
   - ☐ Other: _____

4. What was the major focus area of your students' LPP project? Select all that apply.
   - ☐ Commerce
   - ☐ Economic Development
   - ☐ Education
   - ☐ Environment
   - ☐ Government
   - ☐ Health and Nutrition
   - ☐ Homeland Security
   - ☐ Housing
   - ☐ Public Services
   - ☐ Safety
   - ☐ Youth/Family Services
   - ☐ Other _____

In each of the sections below, please select the responses that best reflect your feelings.

II. Project Design and Implementation

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. Students took on key leadership roles in designing and implementing the project.	O	O	O	O
2. The project involved all participants in assessing student learning.	O	O	O	O
3. The community partner was well prepared to work with students.	O	O	O	O
4. The project met an identifiable community or community partner need or interest.	O	O	O	O
5. I was able to accommodate the project within the existing curricular framework.	O	O	O	O
6. The project was easily aligned with local and state standards.	O	O	O	O
7. The time I spent on this project was not worth the benefits students derived from it.	O	O	O	O
8. The project allowed students to apply what they learned in class to improve a situation in the community.	O	O	O	O

Comments: _____
_____
_____

III. Teaching Practice

	Decreased	No Change	Increased a Little	Increased a Lot
9. My use of youth-led projects in my classroom	O	O	O	O
10. My use of hands-on activities in my classroom	O	O	O	O
11. My sense of connection to the young people in my classes	O	O	O	O
12. My respect for the capacity of young people to work as a group on important community issues independent of an adult	O	O	O	O
13. My enjoyment or satisfaction in teaching young people	O	O	O	O
14. My desire to collaborate with other teachers on student work	O	O	O	O
15. My use of multiple strategies to assess student learning	O	O	O	O
16. My involvement of community resources in the instructional process				

Comments: _____
_____
_____

IV. Student Engagement

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
17. Students were more engaged while working on this project than other assignments in the course.	O	O	O	O
18. Students were more engaged in this course than in other non-project based courses I have taught.	O	O	O	O
19. The project increased students' use of problem-solving and critical thinking skills.	O	O	O	O
20. The project encouraged students to become more engaged in the community.	O	O	O	O
21. The project helped students understand the challenges of problem solving around important community issues.	O	O	O	O
22. The project allowed students with non-traditional learning styles to become engaged and succeed.	O	O	O	O
23. The project allowed low-performing students to become engaged and succeed.	O	O	O	O
24. The project reduced the incidences of student misbehavior in my class.	O	O	O	O
25. Student attendance increased as a result of their participation in the project.	O	O	O	O

Comments: _____
_____
_____

V. Student Learning

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
26. Participating in the project increased students' teamwork skills.	O	O	O	O
27. The project increased students' leadership skills.	O	O	O	O
28. The project promoted deep learning about important content.	O	O	O	O
29. The project increased my students' writing skills.	O	O	O	O
30. The project increased my students' reading and comprehension skills.	O	O	O	O
31. The project enhanced my students' presentation skills.	O	O	O	O
32. The project increased my students' comfort with technology.	O	O	O	O
33. The project increased my students' ability to organize and manage their work.	O	O	O	O
34. The project increased my students' self-confidence.	O	O	O	O

Comments:_____
_____

V. Training and Technical Assistance

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
35. The Summer Academy training gave me a good foundation for designing and implementing LPP.	O	O	O	O
36. The regional training was important to the success of my LPP work.	O	O	O	O
37. The on-site trainings/meetings with Rural Trust staff were important to the success of my LPP work.	O	O	O	O

Comments: _____
_____
_____

VI. Perceptions of Your LPP Experience

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
38. I would be willing to participate in another LPP project.	O	O	O	O
39. The Rural Trust staff provided adequate support in designing and implementing the LPP project.	O	O	O	O
40. Participation in LPP has positively impacted the way I teach.	O	O	O	O
41. The project helped me understand the community better.	O	O	O	O
42. The project strengthened the ties between the school and community.	O	O	O	O
43. The project was more trouble than it was worth in terms of student learning and engagement.	O	O	O	O

Comment: _____
_____
_____

44. What are some of the challenges you encountered in working with students in the community? Select all that apply.
    ☐ Demands on my time
    ☐ Insufficient project time period
    ☐ Community organizations not prepared or willing to work with students in decision-making roles
    ☐ Mismatch between project and school's academic goals
    ☐ School policies and practices that limited your ability to implement the project
    ☐ Cost of project materials and transportation
    ☐ Managing large groups of students outside the classroom
    ☐ Other _____
    _____

45. Were you able to overcome the challenges to implement the project fully?
    ☐ Yes   ☐ No
    Explain: _____

46. What impacts did the project have on the community?
- ☐ Increased community's understanding and appreciation of young people as resources in community building.
- ☐ Increased or added new services
- ☐ Increased understanding across racial, ethnic, age, gender, socioeconomic and other boundaries
- ☐ Developed new products and materials that were of use to the community
- ☐ Influenced local decision making in an important area of public concern
- ☐ Opened new business or otherwise provided opportunity to increase spending within the community
- ☐ Other: _____

47. How has LPP participation affected your perception of the community?
- ☐ Increased understanding of the challenges the community faces
- ☐ Increased awareness of how the school can contribute to community improvement
- ☐ Increased awareness of how the community can contribute to school improvement
- ☐ Increased awareness of the value of youth voice in important community issues
- ☐ Other: _____

44. What aspect of this experience was most beneficial to your class? _____
_____
_____
_____

45. What aspect of this experience was most beneficial to the community? _____
_____
_____
_____

46. What aspects of this experience would you change? _____
_____
_____
_____

Please feel free to add any other comments you would like to make.

OPTIONAL:

Name: _____

Contact Information: __(_____)_____/_____
          Phone Number   / E-mail Address

May we contact you for a follow-up interview?
          ☐ Yes   ☐ No

Thank you.