Teacher Quality Enhancement Middle School Project:
A Spotlight on an Engaged Learner Community
Partners Project for Middle Level Excellence
(Project Highlights)
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Partners for Middle Level Excellence
- Higher Education Faculty—CSU & CC
  - Content (A&S) / Pedagogy (Ed)
- MIDS Teacher Candidates and Alumni
- MIDS Teachers/Administrators
- MIDS Level Learners

Local TQE Partners
- Community Colleges
  - Kennedy King
  - Malcolm X
  - Olive Harvey
  - Triton
  - Daley
  - Harold Washington
  - Moraine Valley
- Middle-Level Schools
  - Dixon Elementary
  - Vernon John’s Community Academy
  - Thurgood Marshall Middle School
  - Etc.

Emerging Roles of a TQE Partner
- Leadership Academy I (July 2001)
  - To build the foundation for the Engaged Community of Learners
  - Help faculty at all levels (higher education and at the Mid-
    level) become friends first to plant the seeds that grow
    relationships built on trust.
  - Help faculty articulate best practices of teaching and
    learning with particular emphasis on the unique needs of the
    middle level learner.
  - Help faculty identify the connection between their role
    of the faculty member in preparing potential middle
    level teachers
  - Establish a framework for a MIDS Option initial
certification program based on the standards.
  - Establish Founding Families/Teams
    that will in turn lead other new partners
    in the process as mentors.

- Leadership Academy II (July 2002)
  - To build design expertise using Blackboard and basic
technology software.
  - Establish a web-enhanced course presence
  - Develop an initial model of a technology-driven
module/learning experience
  - To use the new design expertise
  - Improve the web-enhanced course presence
  - Develop more technology-driven modules/learning experiences
  - To serve as Family Team Leaders
    for professional development workshops at
    both the higher education and middle level.
  - To support and identify potential
    middle level learners.

- Leadership Academy III (June 2003 – July 2004)
  - To build design expertise
  - Develop a medium to advanced model of a technology-
driven module/learning experience using Netscape
    Composer 7.0 that can be attached to a Blackboard site
  - To use this newly designed expertise
  - Improve the web-enhanced course presence
  - Develop more technology-driven modules/learning experiences
    using Composer to allow the MIDS program to
    offer a full range of professional development necessary for
    recertification (120+ clock hours) in each discipline
    –specific area.
  - To continue building technology expertise
  - To provide service as a middle level
    expert for professional development at
    all levels.
  - To mentor teacher candidates and
    novice alumnae.
Professional Development for Higher Education Faculty

Tasks Accomplished w/ CC & CSU faculty
- Professional Development
  - Best Practices Seminars co-offered with CURE
    - ESL/Bilingual
    - Writing/Reading/English
  - Conference co-sponsored with CURE
    - Johnson & Johnson, cooperative learning
    - Technology-related
      - Blackboard, Powerpoint, Inspiration, Gradequick, Smart Board, Capturing Images, Video, etc.
    - Mini-grant Writing Workshop
    - Sent Partners to Conferences & Workshops

Community College Partner Providing Professional Development for Middle School Teachers

Consortia Recruitment Plan of Actions
- Target Audience, Needs, Strengths, Weakness
- Target Goals
  - Preservice Recruitment
  - Preservice Persistence
  - Preservice Placement
  - Inservice Job Attainment
  - Inservice Induction/Retention
    - Goals, Dimensions, Assessment Strategy, Responsible Party, Timeline

Preservice Recruitment
- 20-24 Community College Students
  - Application/Interview Process
  - Demonstrate a commitment to teaching at the middle school level
  - 2.5 G.P.A. or higher
  - First or second year students
### Preservice Persistence

- **Middle School Cohort Program**
  - Collegiate Middle Level Association Activities
  - Tutoring for 100 hours/$1000 stipend (prorated)
  - Teacher Writing and Assistance Center
  - CC/University Mentor Teams
  - Advisors

### Teachers’ Writing and Assistance Center

- One-on-One Writing Tutoring
- Computer-Assisted Hours

#### Hours Open Per Week

- **1997-1998**
- **2001-2002**
- **Fall 2002**
- **2002-2003 projected**

#### Online tutorial activities

- Online tutorial activities have been used for 67,994 minutes since January 1, 2000.
- 5700 online tutorial activities have completed. 86% of students who chose individual tutorial time passed the writing portion of the December 2002 basic skills test. Other correlations in specific content areas are still being examined but seem positive.

### MIDS student working in the TWC

- One of the challenges is providing assistance for a wide variety of unique needs. Using technology-assistance programs helps to fill part of the gap.

### Starting a Support Structure

- **MS Cohort Started**
  - Kennedy King—Fall 2001
  - Malcom X—Fall 2001
  - Olive Harvey—Spring 2002

- **Collegiate Middle School Association: CC/CSU chapter**
  - Founded
  - Spring 2002

### Preservice Placement

- Tutoring Program to Teaching
  - Provides a contextualized setting.
  - Cohort members are paired with MIDS teams.
  - Field-based practicums
  - Student teaching

### MIDS Teacher Candidates Prepare Experiences for the Middle Level Learner
Inservice Job Attainment

- Frequently teacher candidates are offered positions in the partner schools in which they have been placed.

Inservice Job Induction/Retention

- Mentorship Program
  - Facilitated by the MS teacher in Residence
  - Community College Faculty
  - University Faculty
  - Peer Team Members

MIDS Program Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MIDS cohort program CC students</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School Learners served by cohort</td>
<td>&gt;2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIDS cohort service hours (tutoring/assistance)</td>
<td>&gt;10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>CC MIDS cohort transfer students by Spring 2003</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC non-cohort transfer students by Spring 2003</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native CSU MIDS majors as of Spring 2003</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC MIDS cohort transfer students by Fall 2003</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDS Majors as of July 1, 2003</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Projected student enrollment by Summer 2004   | 100       

CSU TQE/MS III Leadership Team

- Nancy Grim, Director
- Phyllis McCune, Middle School Teacher-in-Residence, 2001-2002
- Mary Kate Witry, Middle School Teacher-in-Residence, 2002-2003
- Rosemary Buteau, TQE/COE Technology Coordinator
- Susan Storrs, English Team Leader
- Sharon O’Donnell, Math Team Leader
- Mel Sabella, Science Team Leader
- Sylvia Gist/Gabriel Gomez, Technology Team Leaders