

March 6, 2011

Students from Big Picture Film & Theater Arts in Los Angeles, showcasing some favorite biology experiments. These students are extracting DNA from Split Peas and Strawberries. Want to know more? Email Steve: sbachrach@bigpictureLA.org see page 2 for additional photos.



Amazing students and great connections!

All over the network, students and staff are doing rigorous work in innovative ways, showcasing the power behind personalized and real-world education.

- Big Picture Film & Theater Arts in Los Angeles just finished the second phase of an innovative schedule change that allowed students to do a two-month immersion in topics ranging from Biology to Mandarin. Want to learn more? Email Steve Bachrach to find out more! :sbachrach@bigpictureLA.org
- New Village Charter High School in Los Angeles is part-way through the implementation of a very cool meditation program. All students and staff are being trained in meditation and they are utilizing these new skills both on-site during the school day, but also in their own time off-campus. Email Javier to find out more: jguzmangil@gmail.com
- Check out the great story about Chezni Knight from Beacon Academy!
- Phoenix Rising from Tulsa visited Met Sacramento and San Francisco Big Picture!
- And we ended the week with a mention in a cool article about personalized learning:<http://www.districtadministration.com/viewarticle.aspx?articleid=2710&p=1#0>

Be sure to send us your pictures and stories so we can share them with the network.

Have a great week!



Chezni Knight - from Beacon Academy in Lafayette, IN 2010 Earth Team Volunteer of the Year

This award honors volunteers for their outstanding and exemplary achievements and leadership in the protection and enhancement of Indiana's soil and water resources.

Chezni began working with the SWCD in early 2010 on the Regency Place rain garden project. As an Earth Team volunteer, Chezni worked hard to install a functioning rain garden at the retirement center. Although not everything went according to plan, she discovered that she has a real passion for natural resource conservation. Like a wildflower, Chezni has blossomed and has continued to seek out other opportunities to provide assistance in the natural resource field. She is currently assisting with the enhancement of the Cole Elementary School outdoor lab. Congratulations, Chezni...and a sincere THANK YOU for serving the community through the Earth Team program and beyond!

Raised in the U.S.A

The following information is to assist our Big Picture schools in supporting and creating opportunities for non legal resident students:

Facts:

- In 1982, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Plyer v. Doe that all children, regardless of immigration status, were guaranteed access to a public education in grades K-12. The ruling, however, did not extend to access in higher education.
- According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), only 11 states (California, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin) have passed legislation granting undocumented students access to higher education since the Court's 1982 ruling. Two states—Texas and New Mexico—extend state aid for college affordability.
- Undocumented population in the U.S. is estimated at 11 million
- Approximately 1.8 million are under the age of 18
- 39% of undocumented children live below the poverty line
- 65,000 undocumented students graduate high school each year in the U.S.
- Only 5% attend college
- 2003 Study in Chicago found that 80% of undocumented students had college plans (compared to 77% of legal immigrant counterparts) but 43% did not know how they would pay for it (compared to 17% of legal counterparts)

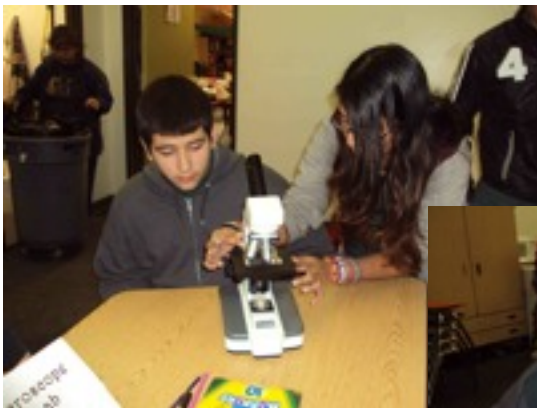
Building a Transition Program:

- Recruiting successful alumni as peer mentors and resources for students
- Helping students navigate state policies and the process for in-state tuition
- Identifying personnel at colleges and universities to work with students
- Helping students understand that a college education can be used to leverage their application for legal residency status
- Advocating for students by writing to your federal and state representatives

Resources:

- College Board: <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/guidance/financial-aid/undocumented-students>
- Educators for Fair Consideration: <http://www.e4fc.org/>
- National Conference of State Legislatures: <http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=12846>
- National Immigration Law Center: <http://www.nilc.org/>
- Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund: <http://www.maldef.org/>
- MALDEF Scholarship List: https://www.maldef.org/assets/pdf/Scholarship_List_2010_2011.pdf

For questions and additional information, please contact Mario De Anda at mdeanda@bigpicturelearning.org.



Co-Corner: D to the E

From Doc

Whew- a day with all the different pieces that make my job so varied and exciting.



The day opens with my 6am workout with my trainer (I can't seem to discipline myself). An 8am meeting with a woman that runs The Ashe Center in New Orleans, a cultural arts center, where she wants her own 12 workers to be in College Unbound in New Orleans. Then after breakfast, I picked up Getse from Bhutan. The King has asked him to start a college for the rural poor. He came to us because he believes in the Big Picture design. Fun, but not our work...but I have wanted to visit Bhutan which has a Gross National Happiness as opposed to a Gross National Product.

Then a meeting with a Big Picture Board member who has been selected as The Chairman of the Board of Higher Ed, which also gives him a seat on the K-12 Board of Regents. It's exciting to be connected and see how we can influence. Then to meet with Mike McCarthy, student at College Unbound, about his website drawalong.com and the demand for his work. Then The Met students met with the Bhutan dude and then the college students worked with him to design a possible college there. The students seemed like adults/colleagues. Very cool.

Then an alumni came in, very boldly, giving me shit for being hard to reach. She is a senior at Rhode Island College. It was great to talk about her trials and tribulations.

Books

I was re-reading, The Flight of The Creative Class by Richard Florida. In his book, Florida talks about how to keep cities vibrant.

He says, expanding education in this country is not only a matter of basic human rights, it is an economic imperative. Human capital is the most important investment a country makes. He goes on to say, The Met has created a new model of education around the idea of real practice. Children are taught not just to think but to do. Very cool.

Next week

College Unbound has an advisory board member visiting and getting to know the students. Then the staff and students head to the city to take in a NYC college marketing class for free(yeah!) on the branding and marketing of College Unbound. Eleven students will spend their semester on it at the college. Midterm

exhibitions for the college-ending the week with a dinner of staff and students in Boston at the New England Board of Higher Education Excellence Awards dinner, where I am getting an award. I wake up the next morning and I'm off to SXSW in Austin, Texas. Check it out. It's a music, film, technology and interactive festival. I was asked to give a speech on Big Picture design. It's supposed to be very cool. Two years ago, our alumni John McCauley's band, Deer Tick, came in #1 at a Rolling Stone Magazine contest there. This lead the band to the big time, including the Jay Leno Show. From there I fly to DC where I am meeting with a new group of the 50 private colleges that have 50% or more Pell supported students(low income) and then to Southern New Hampshire University to have a weekend with our first candidates/students for College Unbound.

This schedule sounds crazy enough but in between it all, we continue to fight for The Met's budget and to keep Big Picture moving forward.

From Elliot

Please look at the attached photograph. I love the look of this photo and the idea behind it. Ahh collaborations... What would the world be without them? This is a quick read and at the same time a deeper one that brings to mind all sorts of dilemmas and questions. Look at how lit up Germany and the Scandinavian countries are. What does that tell you about people who have a healthy economy? India and China still look pretty dark. The US seems like we are talking to ourselves. Of course, we mostly communicate science in English in the US so, that might be the issue. What do you see?



Our collaboration on the Nellie Mae proposal wasn't as complex as this photo but we did have great communication between six schools and BPL. It was a smooth process. Deadline for submission is today.

Right now I'm at a NextGen Learning Conference in Denver about competency based assessments and the use of technology. Here's a few things that I noodled on.

One speaker from Alaska said that the Native American population there has over 50% unemployment. When he said that, I realized there was a time not too long ago when the employment was 100%.

Here I am at a competency based assessment conference where they are running the conference by teaching to the people in lowest cohort of knowledge

at the conference. Certainly not competency based. I'm worried.

They mentioned 21st century skills at the beginning but it quickly became about "multiple ways of learning the common core standards" and nothing else.

One student on a video made the comparison to moving through levels on a computer program in reading as if it were the same as a video game. Five minutes before in my group I said, "these programs have levels like video games." No one paid attention to me but when the student said it, everyone gave me the nod. We are using video game platforms to train up our students in learning.

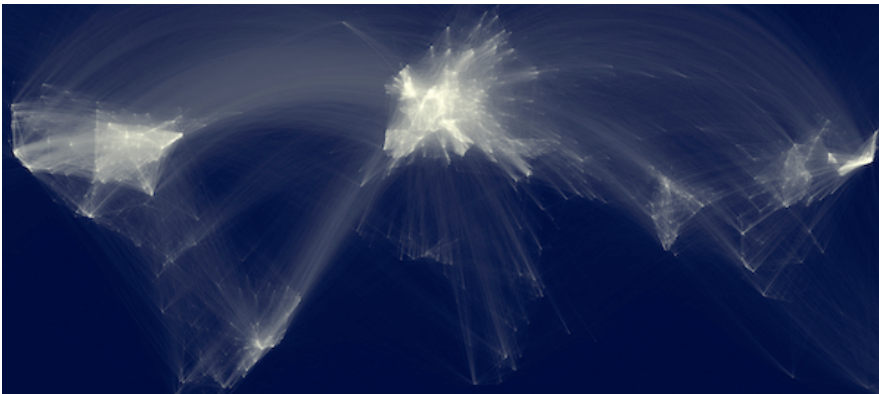
One discussion centered around the system we have where time is constant and achievement varies to going to a competency system where time varies

and achievement constant. I think they left out in the system now, content is constant and needs to vary but the content is still constant in the competency-based system.

People talked about personalized learning without people. I think there really needs to be a person at the other end of the line if there is going to be personalization. The real name for what is going on should be computerization not personalization.

Next week I'm back in Los Angeles talking at a BPCA board meeting. It is getting harder and harder to charter in CA. I'll be meeting some potential funders, policy makers, and going to our schools in LA.

Enjoy the weekend!



This is a Map of Science - It is a map of the world (the United States to the northwest, Europe bright in the center, Asia to the east). To be more exact, it is a map of human communication. To be even more exact, it is a map of a very particular form of communication: collaboration between scientists in all the world's cities. This is the work of [Olivier J. Beauchesne](#), who describes himself as a research analyst at Science-Metrix of Virginia and Montreal. As [he explains](#), he extracted, aggregated, and plotted data representing scientific collaborations from 2005 to 2009



Staff from MetSacramento and Tulsa's Phoenix Rising stop to take a quick group photo during a recent visit at MET Sacramento.



Calling All Student Artists

2011 SuperCalendar Cover Contest

Last year's SuperCalendar was made more special by the original artwork by our first annual contest winner - **Miriam Turner from Community Connects High School in Lisbon, CT.** We are pleased to announce our second annual contest for the cover of the 2011 SuperCalendar.

This contest is open to all students in the Big Picture Learning network -and this year, the network will also be choosing the winner by voting on submitted designs!

If a student's artwork is chosen, it will be printed as the cover of the SuperCalendar which goes to more than 5000 people worldwide! This is a great opportunity for students to get their art in the world - you never know who's going to see a SuperCalendar! The winning student's name and school will be prominently featured in the SuperCalendar.

Entries must be sent to Rodney by April 11th. Web voting will begin on April 20th and close on April 29th. The winner will be announced by May 6th.

To have your artwork considered, please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. The design must be original and created by the student submitting it for consideration.
2. The design must include the Big Picture Learning logo in some form which can be downloaded in several forms (<http://www.bigpicture.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/logo-collection.zip>). Hand-drawn logo is totally fine! The words 'SuperCalendar 2011-2012', and the Big Picture Learning website - www.bigpicture.org must also be included.
3. Sizing for artwork must be 7.75 inches wide and 11.25 inches high.
4. Any photography or digital artwork must be 300 dpi for print purposes.
5. For non-digital artwork, please scan the originals and send to Rodney via email. If non-digital artwork is selected as the winner, we will work with the artist to convert it for the cover.
6. Deadline for submission is Midnight on April 11th. You must email your submission to Rodney Davis (rdavis@bigpicturelearning.org) and include your name, grade, school and advisor contact information.

Questions? Need Clarification?
Email Rodney at rdavis@bigpicturelearning.org!