

April 24, 2011

Students and staff from Central Vermont Big Picture during a presentation at the New England Secondary School Consortium, High School Redesign Conference on High School Transformation.



Race to the end of the year!

Spring Breaks are over, and now we are in the race to the end of the year. Senior Thesis Projects, Gateway Exhibitions, Proms, College Celebrations and then Graduations! Not to mention all the fun of recruiting new students and staff in preparation for the brand new school year that is right around the corner!

In the news:

- Check out the great article about Ethan White, a senior at Central Vermont Big Picture. He is interning at HG Skis and was able to design his own ski's. Check out the article: <http://hgskis.com/?p=494>
- The students above were asked to present information about their internships in a small rural community like Rochester, VT. Ethan (in argyle sweater) shared his experiences interning with HG Skis in Burlington, VT. Riley (in black vest) talked about interning at Ted Green Ford and his plans to go to school to be a diesel technician at Vermont Technical College. Madison (in gray) shared her experiences interning at Gifford Medical Center in Randolph, VT, and Rhianna (in white) shared about interning with the photographer at the local newspaper and about having 4-5 photos of hers published in the paper.

Be sure to send us pictures and updates about the amazing things your students are doing - we love to share with the network.

Have a great week!

Send us your Graduation Information so we can publish in the Network News. We have lots of fans across the country that enjoy attending graduations, and we want to make sure we have accurate information! A list will be printed beginning with next week's Network News!

Emergency College Fund Information

If you know of alumni struggling with financial emergencies while in college, The Big Picture College Emergency Fund is available to help them. The program is intended to assist Big Picture high school graduates—regardless of residency status—who are enrolled in college and are facing financial emergencies, such as, but not limited to, car repairs, groceries, winter clothing, housing, medical emergencies, etc. that preclude a student from continuing his or her studies. The program is not intended to provide students with financial aid toward regular tuition payments or replace other forms of financial aid such as student loans, institutional or private scholarships, etc.

For more information about the program or to obtain an application, please visit <http://www.bigpicture.org/innovation/big-picture-college-emergency-fund/>. You may also contact Mario De Anda at scholarships@bigpicturelearning.org with questions. Please help us get the word out to your alumni!

Co-Corner: D to the E

From Doc

A quiet week around school with The Met on vacation. I got to spend one day with College Unbound students doing 15 minute meetings. For the most part, I got caught up...the short time makes you get to the point quickly. Most of my meetings are an hour(who made up that time? shrinks use 45 minutes and call it an hour). The problem with an hour meeting is that it produces an hour more of work at home. Once I tried to have half hour meeting and spent the next half hour listing the tasks it created. Great idea, didn't last long...others should try it.



The first College Unbound class will be graduating next year- amazing...more than that, they have become pretty incredible, committed young men and women. We're helping them think about jobs/school after graduation. It's a tough world out there. I took Mike Reaves from Bloomfield Big Picture for an interview at Tufts and their Masters in Teaching program. He was incredible. He impressively talked about his trip to China, showed his videos, spoke about the leadership program he does with The Institute for Non Violence and the history course he is auditing at brown. To get in he has to pass a history test, and with his experience in high school and college he will be in a pretty good place. I was like a proud Pop. Another student, Ariel Wilburn from Camden Big Picture, is interning in San Francisco this summer helping to put on a large spoken word conference...her passion. Others are going to Tanzania, the Dominican Republic and Brazil.

I've also been catching up on calls, planning for next year and getting ready for next week when I'll be on the road for 4 days.

Have a good weekend,

Dennis

From Elliot

Another week on the road from San Diego to Detroit to Los Angeles and now back home. Last Sunday, I landed in Detroit to icy cold weather. The next day it snowed 3 inches. I spent time with Charlie at HFLI with Deb Parizek. We covered lots of ground on the evolution and development of the HFLI network of schools. It is always a great perspective to see the patterns and the differences in organizations. Whether it is growth, funding, dealing with districts or boards, so many of the issues are the same in the life cycle of our non-profits. I wonder if aliens coming from another planet would see us as all the same just as sure as we see ourselves as vastly different?



As the World Turns

This week, I spoke with Al Smith, our old principal from Denver. He is directing the turn-around schools initiative there. It was great to talk with Al and find out that Denver Public Schools is contracting with a group called Ed Labs out of Harvard. When they came to visit Al, he took a double take because the person working for Ed Labs was Matt Spengler. It seems like we are talking to ourselves but in different companies. If we took a polling of all of our former principals and where they are working and the leadership positions they have, we would have a wealth of data that would tell us about how we influenced people who grew up with us.

Today I'm off to the east coast where I'll be spending the Easter weekend with Darlene's family. Next week, Lynda has lined up lots of meetings for me with foundations in NYC. After those meeting on Monday and Tuesday, I'll be at the third Newark STEAM session. By Thursday, I'll be in Chicago for a BPL executive board meeting then, heading off to RI to the Dutch. It's a very busy time of the year.

Enjoy the weekend!