

## Outreach Roundtable

Meeting Minutes: 03/06/2008

### I. Call to order

Kelli Mayes called to order the regular meeting of the Outreach Roundtable members at 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, in room 439 of the Drinko Library.

### II. Roll call

The following persons were present:

- Kelli Mayes, Director MTOC
- Suzanne Edwards, Administrative Assistant, MTOC
- Steve Hensley, Dean of Student Affairs
- Kay Lawson, Instructor of Music Education
- Kelly L. Watts, Program Development Director, RESA II
- Marilyn Fox, Program Coordinator, COHP
- Pat Campbell, Coordinator, SEE
- Tanya Bobo, Human Resources, Alcon Manufacturing Ltd.

### III. Open issues

**Kelli:** I'll start by giving you an update on the Outreach projects that we're working on at the moment. When you came in, Suzy gave everyone a flyer and the Outreach Roundtable members' sheet. The flyer has a list of all our summer and fall OCCHS course offerings and deadlines for applications. We are not dual credit, and we are totally online so we are not competing with Pat. We have some new classes being offered by the IST department, as well as, our regular courses that we offer such as PSY 201, GEO 100, ENG 101/102, and SOC 200. The summer sessions are different this year; there are now six sessions during the summer. We worked with the various departments to designate two of these sessions for OCCHS courses. For the fall term, we are waiting until September 8, because we won't have any students when the regular Marshall courses begin. We need a little more time to give high school students a chance to sign up for classes and go through the application process.

**Pat:** Why are CJ 200 and HST 103 starting earlier than the others?

**Kelli:** CJ 200 and HST 103 are starting with the regular Marshall classes because they don't want to have separate sections for OCCHS. The reason is because they haven't seen enough enrollments from OCCHS students in their courses. They said we can enroll students in their regular sections instead.

**Pat:** What are the new IST courses about, and what degree can they be used for?

**Kelli:** They cover computer related subjects and can be used for an IST degree or for anyone who is just interested in this area and wants to take it as an elective. The big brochure has class descriptions and prerequisites listed for students to read more about the individual classes. The schools have

been requesting Intro to Art and language courses to be offered through OCCHS which we are looking into.

Other outreach programs include the e-Missions classes that we offer. We have close to a dozen schools coming this spring. They can take part, for example, in the Moon, Mars, and Beyond or Operation Montserrat packages. Students work together to problem solve the crisis using scientific data that is fed to them via satellite and video conferencing technology.

We have also been working on a new online module. There are two purposes for this module. One is to give students an opportunity to experience what online classes are like, and the other is to provide informational help for students to succeed in college such as: how to apply to college, how to prepare for college, taking standardized tests, how to choose a college, how to choose a major, and applying for financial aid. It is a free module and will be available on our OCCHS website.

**Marilyn:** Can you let us know when it's online because we can put a link from our website too?

**Kelli:** Yes, I will be happy to notify you when the module is up and running.

We still have a link available online for the webinar we presented last semester. It runs for thirty minutes, and it will be up through the rest of this semester.

**Tanya:** We are a medical device manufacturer located on Rt. 2 with about 750 employees. Through our corporate offices in Ft. Worth, Texas, we have an Education Assistance Program. This program allows employees to be reimbursed for college classes as long as they are enrolled in a degree program and that program is related somehow to our business – business management, applied science, technology management, etc. We currently have 40 employees participating in that Program. All but 2 are enrolled at Marshall.

In addition to our Education Reimbursement Program, we've been working with Marshall for a number of years now to offer classes on-site to our employees. We currently offer about four classes every semester now – two MCTC accelerated classes, one Bachelor's level class and a graduate class. Thirty-three of the employees who are participating in our education assistance program are taking on-site classes. It's wonderful for our employees, because they don't have to worry about parking. We (Alcon) sign a contract to pay for the class so that they don't have to pay up front for the class. They only have to reimburse Alcon if they don't make a C or better in the class; B or better if it's a graduate class.

We plan to have another Education Day this spring. We'll invite Marshall, of course, as well as some of the other local colleges. We'll ask them to set up informational booths in our cafeteria so that employees can stop by during the day to learn more about them and their individual programs. We (Alcon) will also man a booth to distribute information about our Education Assistance Program. Our participation rate is about 5%. We'd like to see that number improve some.

We generally don't offer classes in the summer due to vacation schedules and difficulties we've had in the past filling classes, but recently I've received a large number of requests from employees interested in trying to do that, so I'll be talking with Pat to see how we might try to do that this year.

**Pat:** We're still in the registration phase right now and the numbers are looking good. We are currently trying to expand more into other counties. We would like to find some way to reach the RESA's. We also want to revisit local clubs such as the Rotary Club because that's where you find a lot of parents. We recently had a mall day that went very well. We had our booth set up with information, and we spoke to several different people about the program.

**Kelly:** Every RESA has an advisory meeting once a month so we can get you the contact information to set that up so you can attend.

**Kelli:** Can you send that to me also?

**Marilyn:** We get calls all the time about a lack of Math teachers in schools.

**Pat:** It would be good for schools if you also channel them my way, because sometimes we can use old math faculty that have been there a while.

**Kelly:** We're looking for a retiree that wants to teach all day. If we can just find one person willing to teach, we can broadcast him/her.

**Marilyn:** Our Interns are currently working with elementary schools to put on health fairs and talk about how to get healthy. They share five basic principles for good health. We also just finished heart month and got a great response on campus, but it's still hard to get community interest and participation.

**Kelly:** The algebra requirements for this year's incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders are under revision. The current algebra support that will count for credit for high risk students can be taught with Algebra 1. As it stands right now, students have to have four math credits, but there may be more revisions to come.

Regarding the RTI model response to intervention, we are looking at a three tiered model. We have a board meeting next week, and you can check the Board of Education website for an update on that.

There are going to be some changes regarding chemistry. They will now be offering other science classes for juniors. We are in the process of setting up a partnership grant with RESA 1 and 3. We are also competing for a grant right now to take general science teachers and put them through training to teach other sciences. They can reach highly qualified status without going through certification, but if they want to pursue that they can.

Students are not prepared for college; this is what is coming out of conversations. Teachers are having to deal with the backlash of this. Parents also need to be educated and help their kids with choosing pre-college courses. It's a different world out there with parents working.

**Kelli:** From a parent's perspective, I've never received anything to tell my daughters what classes they need to take.

**Pat:** At Wayne County, there is no administrative support. Scheduling needs to be in the evening so that parents can come after work.

**Kelly:** Five out of six counties are using math grants and working with RESA 2 to take math teachers and put them through forensics. Sixth-grade just did it yesterday. They do DNA sampling and develop hypotheses. This type of instruction is relevant, so we had to play around with scheduling because the normal school day does not allow for this kind of instruction.

We had a day at Heritage Farm which was very successful. Without the arts, that kind of creativity has been missing. We are stressing that we need the arts to stimulate creativity and problem solving. When math and reading comprehension came into play, students were dropped from arts more so they could get the math and reading comp credits they needed.

**Karen:** We need to make sure they meet requirements for college.

**Linda:** We are looking at that, and they have to make sure they consider all that. Students will take a college readiness test at the end.

**Kay:** I think everyone got one of these brochures that I handed out as you came in. This is about our virtual field trips, which are a little different. Most are self contained online. Ours offer a portion of that for preparation for students and teachers. There is a live arts presentation which will be a puppet theatre this year. It is a satellite of a nationwide program called "Kids on the block". They sell puppets and scripts to communities and are allowing us to do this in a virtual environment. They are very careful about where the program is placed, so that communities don't compete. You have to choose two subjects to be covered, for example, bullying and school safety, or health and obesity. They schedule them with the schools on a one-to-one basis and the children are required to prepare something that they share with the presenter.

We are hoping to have some modules to integrate art, patterning, and mathematics. We are working with an artist who is working with the Smithsonian African Art Museum. For artists in Ghana, it was systematically made very difficult, if not impossible, and punishable to experience or produce art so many are now in the U.S., and we are trying to support this cause.

**Steve:** As many of you may be aware, last year we implemented a common reading program. The first book was **The Glass Castle**. It was very successful, and many community reading groups waited until the book was announced. This year we are going to use a book about war in Vietnam. It covers ethical themes and we wanted to bring the effects of war to campus and the community since we are experiencing one and students are affected by this. Though the project was delayed, we have built a house in association with Habitat for Humanity, and we are one week away from being complete. This was successful based on a lot of cooperation and hard work by students.

**Karen:** We are still developing online materials and content available for teachers to use in their classroom. To give an example of the content, there is one based on circles, and the problem is that a fire has started in a forest and the student acts as the forest ranger to solve the problem.

Obviously, we have members of the math department involved in OCCHS classes, and we are still working on Marshall's involvement in the web algebra. We're not doing it yet, but we will meet in the spring to determine what we are going to do. Also, Marshall holds an annual math competition for high school students on May 13<sup>th</sup>. This is different from the field day event.

**Pat:** How do students qualify to attend?

**Karen:** Teachers recommend three students. They compete individually and then their scores are put together.

**Linda:** Next year during the week of May 12<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking West Test. It will be illegal for students to not be in school, so this will be a problem for you next year.

**Pat:** How will it affect students this year?

**Linda:** It will affect 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Karen:** Well, that shouldn't be a problem. It's usually juniors and seniors that are nominated.

**Pat:** Is the West Test going to continue in West Virginia?

**Linda:** Yes. There is a whole new test starting next year.

**Karen:** Work on GPS modules will be available online soon and are already currently available through the College of Science website.

**Linda:** There is a video conference tomorrow at 9:00 A.M., and Kathleen Frank is going to talk about OCCHS.

**Kelli:** Thank you all for coming. Looking forward, what date should we look at for the next meeting? I will take a look at our schedules nearer the time and try for September as a possible date for the next meeting of the Outreach Roundtable.

#### IV. **Adjournment**

Kelli Mayes adjourned the meeting at 10:30 A.M.

Minutes submitted by: Suzanne Edwards

Minutes approved by: Kelli Mayes