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Advanced Community Empowerment Partnership in the 21st Century Technologies

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Thinkfinity Initiative for Innovative Teaching, Technology and Research
Advanced Community Empowerment Partnership in 21st Century Technologies

Mid- Project and Final Project Report

Dr. James P. Lawler

A. Original Goals

The original goals of the project are defined below:

Implement an expanded outreach program for educating non-profit organizations in downtown New York City on potential and power of 21st century non-profit technologies;

Initiate student conducted educational formal forums for executives and managers of non-profit organizations on best-of-class non-profit strategies and technologies;

Initiate student led informal seminars for employees and staff of non-profit organizations on non-profit organizational productivity technologies and tools;

Initiate one-on-one student mentoring sessions for intellectually challenged members of non-profit organizations on optimal personal productivity and self-improvement tools; and

Increase experience and knowledge of students significantly in service to disadvantaged members of society and in solutions of 21st century technologies, and substantially increase literacy and fluency of non-profit organizations in the state-of-the-art technologies.

B. Progress Made Towards Original Goals on Project to Date

The progress towards the original goals is reported below:

The outreach program was implemented at AHRC New York City Adult Day Care Services (pilot) at 3 locations with the installation of Dell camera and computer hardware, Able Link audio / video software and wireless technology, which were purchased through the \$7,000 grant of the Thinkfinity Initiative;

The educational forums for 5 executives and managers of AHRC New York City were initiated by the 14 students in the program at the Maiden Lane headquarters of AHRC New York City;

The seminars for 10 employees and staff of AHRC New York City were initiated by the students at 3 locations of AHRC New York City;

The mentoring sessions for 44 intellectually challenged members of AHRC New York City were initiated by the students at 5 locations of AHRC New York City, and sessions for 256 members at the locations were partially initiated through fall 2009; and

The 14 students indicated increased experience and knowledge of service to the intellectually challenged members and staff of AHRC New York City and increased literacy and productivity with the purchased technologies, as measured from and reflected in journals and reports submitted by the students to the instructor.

C. Activities Completed to Contributing to Meeting Goals

The activities completed with the purchased technologies consist of the following:

16 intellectually challenged members at 5 locations of AHRC New York City Adult Day Care Services already engaged with the technologies in the preparation and presentation of “My Story” person-centered planning presentations that were presented at 6 locations of AHRC New York City;

28 intellectually challenged members at the 5 locations confirmed to be engaged fully with the technologies through fall 2009; and

256 intellectually challenged members at the 5 locations confirmed to be engaged partially with the technologies through fall 2009.

D. Activities Not Completed

All of the activities planned were completed and exceeded expectations of the staff, managers and executives of AHRC New York City.

E. Outcomes Received as a Result

The outcomes received as a result of the program are reported below:

The program initiated at AHRC New York City Adult Day Care Services was substantially successful in empowering intellectually challenged members of AHRC New York City with the enablement of the purchased technologies;

The program was successful in informing executives and managers of AHRC New York City of the potential of the technologies in self-improvement of the intellectually challenged members;

The program was successful in introducing the staff of AHRC New York City to the potential of the technologies and the tools in the productivity of service to the intellectually challenged members of AHRC New York City;

The program was successful in facilitating a methodology of empowering intellectually challenged members of AHRC New York City, improving personal pride and self-esteem and societal skills of the individuals through the purchased technologies, in an assessment of this outcome measured by personal reflections and surveys of the members, staff and members of AHRC New York City; and

The program was successful in facilitating learning of the students mentoring the intellectually challenged members, through integrating the newly purchased technologies into the mentoring sessions and subsequent presentations, in an assessment of this outcome measured by personal reflection reports of the students and by testimonials.

F. Unintended Outcomes Achieved

The only unintended outcome achieved by the program was public recognition of it at the 60th Annual Dinner of AHRC New York City in May 2009, in the presence of Governor Patterson of New York State, 1,000 guests and the major media of New York City.

G. Outcomes Reflecting Benefit

The outcomes do reflect the benefits and impacts that were the goals of the program and the positivism generated as a result of the implementation of the program at AHRC New York City.

H. Future Plans for Sustaining Project

My future plans for sustaining the program is to escalate the potential of the purchased technologies by further pursuing higher augmentation device technologies that might service intellectually challenged members of AHRC New York City who suffer from hearing and learning defects.

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