

2011-2014 Megan Jones, Lowell Elementary College Confidential

Project Name: Lowell Scholars

The purpose of this program is to provide after-school tutoring for K-6 English Language Learners. The program will focus on developing skills in speaking, listening, reading, writing and comprehension by pairing Lowell Elementary students with high school mentors. Sessions will focus on developing literacy and math skills.

What impact did this project have on your community?

Feedback from participants of this project revealed that it was a fulfilling and exciting experience for all involved. Lowell students adored their high school mentors; imagine a second grader hanging off a high school girl's arm and saying, "She's mine! She's mine!" Boise high students unanimously agreed that the program should run more than once a week. Comments included:

"This program is amazing."

"I would enjoy doing the tutoring more than once a week."

"I would love to be able to tutor multiple times a week."

Overall, this program contributed to the happiness quotient of our community.

What impact did this project have on your students?

Lowell students loved this program and their high school mentors. Attendance was high and the 6th grade students expressed interest in coming back as tutors when they got older. While the impact of this program cannot be tied to test results, all but one participant showed gains on the English language assessment test. Students showed gains as opposed to declines or maintains.

What impact did this project have on you?

This project continues to amaze me. It is quite amazing to put a bunch of kids together and see how involved and excited groups are while working through a learning task. The project involves a lot of planning and attention to the needs of individuals but the rewards are well worth it. Thank you for your support of this project.

Do you have any advice to offer other teachers who are incorporating service learning? Were there any lessons learned that you would like to share?

- Be flexible
- Differentiate for the diverse learners in the project
- Let students be creative and have fun
- Enjoy all the students