

Career Development Initiative

Background

Career and Program Planning was identified by South Slave school principals and then validated by the South Slave Divisional Education Council in 1999/2000 as a priority for development and implementation across the region. Career Development was also identified by representatives of the SSDEC, Aurora College and the regional office of Education, Culture & Employment (EC&E) as a potential partnership initiative of mutual benefit. This regional initiative also compliments a new territorial Career Development initiative.

A working committee was established with representation from Regional EC&E, and Aurora College-Thebacha Campus, South Slave school administrators, guidance counsellors, and teachers, including one teacher from each South Slave school with grades 9-12. The committee meetings in various configurations each year to update and work on aspects of the regional plan.

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to develop and implement a coordinated Career Development plan that significantly contributes to an increased rate of student success in all schools within the SSDEC. Our goal is to improve the delivery of Career and Program Planning, grades 9-12 in the short term, and to extend the initiative into the earlier grades in the long term.

Accomplishments To Date

Through partnerships and funding proposals (\$218,415 for schools to date) the schools have been provided the following:

❖ **Career Development Resources for Schools**

- *Studentcounsellor.com* - A computer program that helps students identify their goals, post secondary schools and future careers.
- *Career and Program Plan Folders* – for students grades 9-12
- *Real Game Series* - A career development game series for grades 3-12.
- *Lasting Gifts* - An parent workshop presentation agenda and slideshow showing the importance of career development and parent participation.
- *Student Skills Portfolios* - An in-service and binder in which each student in grades 9-12 selects samples of their academic and technical skills, personal skills, team work skills and project work... to be presented by students to potential employers when job hunting. Funded by Conoco Phillips-\$3000
- *Career Development Liaison Officer* - Two positions, one in DJSS and one in PWK to aid in the effective implementation of Career and Program Planning and career development in general. Funded over a period of two years through grant from HRDC-\$87000

❖ **Professional Development for School Staff**

The following career development inservices have been provided to a number of SSDEC school teachers:

- *Southern Career Development Tour* - One teacher from each school with grades 9-12 went to selected Alberta schools that are effectively delivering career development. Partially funded by ECE-\$15000
- *Linx Conference* - The annual NWT career development conference attended by representatives of our schools. Partially funded by ECE-\$27855
- *Building Tomorrow Today Conference* - Alberta's annual CD conference. Partial funded by ECE-\$31000
- *Aurora College Career Development Certificate Program* - A credited program available to career development officers and other interested school staff. Partially funded by ECE-\$5000

Key Upcoming Strategies

- adopting or developing, and implementing a career development *curriculum* or program
- instituting *leadership strategies* that support career development in schools
- developing *community partnerships* of benefit to this initiative
- continuing to raise the awareness and profile of career development
- continuing to strengthen the effectiveness of career development in our schools
- collecting and reporting evidence that the career development initiative has been successful