



Grow Your Own Summit III, May 11-12, 2006
Statewide Learning Network Table Discussions

I. Content Issues

We asked the various table groups to discuss the topics they would like to see emphasized in statewide meetings, technical assistance, and other communications. Here is the way the question was formulated:

Given what you've heard so far in this meeting, and the issues of your own work, which topics for discussion among the consortia are most likely to be useful to you? Here are some examples of topics, meant only to suggest the types of issues that might be included

- a. Community organizing in Grow Your Own*
- b. Financial aid / forgivable loans*
- c. Keeping a cohort strong when participants are working at different levels*
- d. Working with paraprofessionals*
- e. Selecting candidates: indicators of success*
- f. Suggestions for improving the law and rules*
- g. Qualifications and roles of the coordinator(s)*
- h. Internal evaluation and shaping the external evaluation*

Most groups mentioned items c and e or something comparable. A, b, d, and g had significant multiple responses.

Here is a record of the group reports on this issue:

Group 1

They like a, b, c, f and added

- Future appropriations for alternative certification
- Community college to university transitions
- Roles and responsibilities of consortium members
- Cross-cultural learning among all the partners including ISBE
- Respecting professional duties, limitations, etc.
- Leadership development

Group 2

- Support Services for candidates

- Financial aid, rules, models for payment
- Testing and preparation for Basic Skills (online, face-to-face)
- Threaded discussions on desired changes to state rules; on issues related to the test
- Implementation grant RFP with adequate timeline, instant analysis

Group 3 (1 topic only) List of Resource People for New Programs

Group 4

- C,d, and e
- Technical answers from ISBE

Group 5: b,c, and h

Group 6

- Other kinds of teacher prep programs that GYO can learn from
- Other teacher prep programs in the community
- How schools can move from “bureaucratic” to “relational” cultures
 - How does it happen? How far can it go?
 - How to get an honest assessment of the schools you’re working in
- How not to lose the focus in the community – to ensure that the community drives the program
- Effective ways to bridge the gap between community and university.
- How to manage demands of bureaucracy and retain a creative capacity in teaching/in the institution
- How to make sure new ideas/practices get documented – continue the sharing as the program grows
- ”Very important in statewide network to create ongoing network of the GYO candidates and the graduates, the certified teachers.”

Group 7: Issues b,c,d,e

Group 8

- Community Organizing
- “people worried about going through school and getting riffed”
- What happens once the candidates are teachers?
- What happens with student teaching experience?
- How do we determine candidates? (be sure to have members of consortium in the conversation)
- Loan forgiveness.
- Evaluation important but not a top issue

Group 9

- Selecting candidates – pool our experiences
- Evaluation – how to conduct a fair assessment when the evaluator is a partner

- Degree to which partnerships etc. become problematic with NCATE, state, detc. Standards – very little wiggle room
- How to meet the unique needs of students without offering a different program/how to maintain the standards while making a unique program, for example different teaching times, locations, etc.
- How do we ensure the adjuncts are on board?
- Qualifications and relationships of the coordinator
- Another vote for c
- What are other states doing?
- How can GYO-Illinois promote research in this area?

II. Medium issues

A. Meetings

Here are the questions we asked about meetings:

- i. *Statewide or regional*
- ii. *How often*
- iii. *Should meetings be devoted to single topics or cover GYO generally?*
- iv. *What topics are appropriate for meetings?*

Responses converged only in that most groups wanted meetings to be general, rather than issue specific. Here is a record of the group responses:

- no more than two meetings, covering multiple issues. Do not schedule near graduation – share calendars to determine good times.
- Statewide, 1-2, multiple issues
- Statewide meetings;
- Once a year
- 2 regional and 2 state mtgs.
- Statewide meetings, general, quarterly;
- Group 8
 - i. Why meet: networking, ISBE requirements, celebrate, mentoring
 - ii. When – annual for all and theme-based regional meetings quarterly
 - iii. What \$s are available?
- annual, not during finals

B. Email and Web

Here are the discussion suggestions we made about these topics:

- i. *Email listserves*
 - i. *Set up by topic, or by organizational category (e.g. community organizations, universities)?*
 - ii. *What topics are appropriate for listserves?*
- j. *Web site – how can we make it a tool for communication*
 - i. *Document sharing*
 1. *Proposals*
 2. *Newsletters*
 3. *Brochures, forms, etc.*

4. Bibliographies

- ii. *Audio-visual posting (picture gallery, audio from meetings, etc.)*
- iii. *Blogs with comment options*
- iv. *Draft policy documents (e.g. amendments, evaluation plans) with on-line discussion*
- v. *Cross-consortium links*

The responses were quite varied. There is an modest preference for a single email listserv so that people can make their own decisions about the threads they will follow. Here are the reports from the groups:

- everyone gets everything on listserv; web: newsletters, events, bibliographies, cross-consortium links
- web: newsletters, bibliographies, draft policy documents, cross-consortium links
- list serve – avoid too many emails; web site should have a contact-us icon
- Listserves should include everyone; web:
 - resources of current inof, research, news releases
 - links to rules, laws, and funding sources
 - links to consortia
 - blogs open to all
- FAQ – what others have learned from their mistakes; GYO for Dummies
- web site should be comprehensive
- Listserves good
- Need to provide things for students – they should all get email
- Local newsletters posted on web page
- Q&A for public?
- “useful practices section”
- electronic - set up individual topic areas like they do on Blackboard; blogs, storage of newsletters, of articles; links; podcasts of speeches, etc.

III. Other notes

1. When drafting new policies/legislation, run them by the public deans (IADPCE) via Bonnie at WIU

Consortium Friday Lunch Discussions (4 forms)

1. Followup on meeting topics:
 - Rockford: Finances, curriculum development in structured programs; and they would like the Lopez-Metcalf powerpoint
 - ISU/KOCO/LVDC: Teacher mentor models; CPS participation, course alignment, community and higher ed interchange
 - Chicago Lawn: Budget building; learning and valuing cultures of consortia
2. New topics
 - Rockford: Multiple sources of funding for candidates

- ISU/KOCO/LVDC: Basic skills test – how are students prepared.
 - Chicago Lawn: Other examples of this type of model
 - South Suburban: Changing districts, schools and administrations to be a positive receiving ground for our candidates; technology options (e.g. student portfolios)
3. Help from GYO Illinois - TA
- Rockford: Proposal writing – examples from those already doing it; cohort selection and development
 - ISU/KOCO/LVDC: Building consortium relationships, articulation
4. Help from GYO Illinois – Training
- Rockford: Building relationships among current teachers and the community to support GYO and our purpose
 - ISU/KOCO/LVDC: GYO best practices
 - Chicago Lawn: Fiscal management; how will subcontracting work?
5. Help from GYO Illinois – Website
- Rockford: Interactive website
6. Help from GYO Illinois - Other