

CENTENNIAL
COLLEGE

Creating Partnerships in the Prevention of Delinquency

The ProAction Cops & Kids and Centennial College's Community & Justice Services Program Experiment

October 27th, 2011

Centennial's Vision & Mission Statement

- To educate students for career success.
- We make every decision to support the career and personal development of our learners. Our curriculum, teaching and services demonstrate that we value the diverse profiles of our learners.
- Transforming lives and communities through learning.



Our Book of Commitments

- **Encourage Partnerships:** We encourage sustainable relationships that enrich student learning, augment job readiness and provide our graduates with the knowledge and skills to succeed in work and society. We seek a range of partners who are sensitive to socio-cultural needs, support our institutional objectives and contribute to our community.

Signature Learning Experience

- The Signature Learning Experience (SLE) reflects the College's promise to students of a distinctive, inclusive educational experience that builds on a foundation of global citizenship, social justice and diversity. Centennial College students have an opportunity to learn about these concepts, develop their critical thinking and analysis skills, and participate in meaningful projects.

Signature Learning Experience

- Student Portfolio Learning
Students of the SLE engage in transformative education and, through their learning, discover how to make positive changes in their lives and their communities. The SLE Portfolio Project allows SLE students to develop their reflective skills by documenting their personal, career and social growth in the areas of global citizenship, social justice and diversity. Each semester, students develop an artifact or evidence that demonstrates their growth in these areas.

Global Citizenship

- To be a citizen in the global sense means recognizing that we must all be aware of our use of the world's resources and find ways to live on the earth in a sustainable way. When we see others are treated without justice, we know that we are responsible for trying to ensure that people are treated equitably and must have equal opportunities as fellow citizens of this world. We must think critically about what we see, hear and say, and ensure that our actions bring about positive changes.

Community & Justice Services Program (CJSP)

- 2 year diploma program
- 120 first year students
- Approximately 100 2nd year students
- The program prepares students to work with at-risk populations in a variety of criminal justice and community services settings such as correctional institutions, community centers, open and secure facilities for young persons, behavioural classrooms in schools, etc.

Community & Justice Services Program (CJSP)

Building Community Partnerships Course Description

Building Community Partnerships is an applied course that will provide students with an overview of the steps involved in developing new programs or projects. Utilizing a team approach, students will have the opportunity to build their own projects/programs from inception to implementation. Teams will vision, plan and research program options of their choice, develop proposals consisting of clear and concise goals and build partnerships and support for their project through effective marketing. Project sustainability will be demonstrated through budget and fundraising plan development as well as maintaining established partnerships through proper recognition, evaluation and reporting on successes.

Community & Justice Services Program (CJSP)

Building Community Partnership Learning
Outcomes:

1. Design crime prevention & intervention strategies (programs)
2. Identify & access appropriate resources for clients
3. Examine fundraising, marketing and outreach strategies

ProAction Cops & Kids

- ProAction Cops & Kids is a charity that funds programs, developed and run by police officers, to reach youth in their communities. The goal is to build mutual trust and respect between cops and kids, breaking down stereotypes and improving the safety of communities for everyone. Chapters have been established in Durham, Hamilton and Toronto.
- The organization has been a catalyst for advancing community policing and supporting the delivery of new programs that build positive relationships between cops, kids and the community. This year ProAction is celebrating 20 years of funding innovative Toronto Police Service youth programs over \$4.5 million to more than 1000 programs has been provided allowing officers to reach out to over 350,000 youth.

ProAction Cops & Kids

- Policing is not just enforcement, it is building trust and respect in the community to ensure that citizens will come forward and mobilize together for a safer environment for all.
- ProAction Cops & Kids programs are a tool for hundreds of officers, many of whom run programs on their own time. Units such as Community Mobilization Unit and the Community Response Unit in each division rely on these programs as they are instrumental in building trust and respect which helps all officers do their jobs.

ProAction Cops & Kids

- Programs see officers camping on weekends with local kids, playing ball on courts with teams of at-risk youth and spearheading after-school activities designed to keep kids engaged, optimistic and motivated.
- ProAction is a registered charity, entirely independent from any police service. ProAction is not a United Way member agency and receives no government funding. Programs are funded solely due to the generosity of individuals, corporations and family foundations and the efforts of fundraising events.

ProAction Cops & Kids

- In 2010 ProAction provided just over \$480,000 for 110 police-youth programs in Toronto
- Grants average about \$3000 but can range from a few hundred to over \$25,000.

The ProAction Mission

- ProAction Cops & Kids believes that establishing a positive relationship between cops and at-risk kids will strengthen our community today and for the future. By funding programs that bring local cops and kids together, we help create an environment that aims to promote mutual understanding and respect.

ProAction Programs

- All programs involve one or more police officers who act as program managers, role models, mentors, coaches, teachers, friendly advisers, esteem builders and approachable adults.
- Police officers identify the needs of the youth in the communities they patrol. Police officers plan programs to address those needs and approach ProAction for funding. To qualify for ProAction funding the program must involve both youth and officers and they must promote improved relationships between police officers and at-risk youth.

ProAction Programs

- There are no application deadlines. All applications submitted first go to the police liaison officer who reviews the application to ensure it meets the police service standards. Applications are then reviewed by the Grants Committee comprised of community volunteers. Once the application has received a majority vote it is approved.
- After completion of the program, police officers submit a Program Report and receipts. The report provides an accounting of what happened with the program and any suggestions for similar programs in the future. The report is also used as a reference when future applications are received.

Funding Criteria – Toronto

Chapter

1. Programs must be driven by officers of the Toronto Police Service. Police-youth interaction must be integral to the program structure. The expectation for one day programs is a ratio of 50 youth to 1 officer or better. The expectation for weekend programs is a ratio of 20 youth to 1 officer or better.
2. Programs must influence youth who are at risk, in the short or long term, from developing an undesirable lifestyle and help to promote pro-social attitudes through skills development, positive social interaction, mentoring, etc.

Funding Criteria – Toronto

Chapter

3. Grants may cover costs such as facility rentals, equipment, snacks, awards, materials, and fees for youth and Toronto Police officers to take part in programs. ProAction does not normally fund salaries, honorariums, administration, or compensation for individuals – police or civilian. .
4. ProAction funds programs that take place within the province of Ontario.

Funding Criteria – Toronto

Chapter

5. Police-initiated one-day events (i.e. Division picnics, open houses, etc.) are normally eligible for up to \$500 in funding.

6. Police officers may partner with community agencies or schools who may provide administrative support, referrals to youth, etc. If a program is initiated by a school or community agency with fundraising capacity and run by the police, ProAction will consider matching the funds provided by the school or community agency. Funds eligible for matching grants exclude in-kind donations (i.e. facilities, salaries, honourariums, etc.)

Background

- The Community & Justices Services Program offers a 15 week course in 3rd semester called Building Community Partnerships (BCP). This course focuses on creating community partnerships through program and proposal development processes.
- Interested officers partner with 2nd year students in Building Community Partnerships and develop ideas into programs that students and the officers present before the grants committee in an effort to secure funding to deliver the programs in the high risk neighbourhoods previously identified by the officers

Background

- In the fall of 2009, a collaboration was established between Centennial's CJS program and ProAction Cops & Kids and the Toronto Police Service to provide students with the practical experience of proposal and program development.
- The intention of this partnership was to have BCP students work with Toronto Police Officers to create program proposals in accordance with ProAction criteria. Completed proposals would then be submitted by participating officers to ProAction's Grants Committee for funding consideration. If approved, the programs would be implemented by the Toronto Police Service.

Background

- Students' grades for BCP were not to be affected by the outcome of the Grants Committee's review of the proposals submitted and whether or not proposals were granted funding and implemented.

The Partnership

- ProAction Cops & Kids partnered with Centennial College's Community & Justice Services Program to develop youth programs that will bring cops and kids in high risk neighbourhoods together in appropriate and fun activities. ProAction's mission "to create an environment of mutual understanding and respect" fits perfectly with the mission of the Community & Justice Services Program which is to prepare students for "working with people at risk" as part of Centennial's larger vision of "transforming lives and communities through learning".

Commitments

Toronto Police Services

- Inspector to find 12 officers to assign to the project
- A point person in community mobilization unit will be assigned
- Police officers will be made available for a 2 hour class in September and be available to the students via email or phone on a consultative basis as the program outline is developed

Commitments

ProAction

- Executive Director acted as the main contact for the organization
- ProAction provided all necessary information on the grants programs including criteria, best practices and application process
- Executive Director made a presentation on ProAction to the students at the beginning of the semester and was to be part of a panel when students presented their proposals at the end of the semester
- Grants committee agreed to review the proposals once submitted by officers for implementation

Commitments

Centennial Faculty

- Ensured Executive Director and grants committee were kept up to date on the types of programs being developed
- Develop protocols from this pilot for future years
- Provided ProAction with copies of all the completed proposals

Course Structure

- Groups consisted of 6-8 students who worked directly with a designated police officer. The group designated a team lead who was primarily responsible for all correspondence with the police officer
- Survey was conducted targeted at identifying strengths related to proposal writing
- Individuals were asked to rate themselves based on skill level and/or comfort in areas such as public speaking, use of computers, organizational ability, budgeting, etc.

Course Structure

- Each group was given two weeks to develop 3-4 program ideas
- They then met with their designated officer to brainstorm and determine the best program option with the officer's input
- Students spent the next eight weeks developing the program and the program proposal
- Students and officers were then to present their proposals to the grants committee for funding consideration

Course Structure

Wikis

- Groups were given Wikis as a way of communicating with each other outside of classroom time
- Each person was given a responsibility depending on previously identified strengths
 - Ex. Marketing was a door in the Wiki with that person's name on it
- Had to build entire proposal within the Wiki
- Only hard copy was final proposal submitted at end of the semester
- Each week a lecture was given on 1 to 2 sections of the proposal then students were given assignments to work on in their Wikis to develop their initial drafts

Program Development and Proposal Consisted of the Following:

- Program description/rationale
- Program objectives
- Target group
- Program design and implementation
- Marketing (target community resources & involvement)
- Fundraising/community awareness
- Budget
- Publicity/media
- Program evaluation
- Presentation of their proposal to the grants committee

Outcomes ProAction Perspective

- The first attempt at this pilot occurred during the 2010-2011 academic school year. Unfortunately, due to several challenges, none of the proposals prepared by students were initiated by officers or submitted to ProAction for funding. Through preliminary discussions, some of the challenges identified included:
 1. Conflicting class and officer schedules resulting in limited opportunities for officers to meet with students and establish a partnership.

Outcomes ProAction Perspective

2. Participating officers went on vacation, were reassigned or transferred to new departments and had to be replaced with new officers. Students experienced challenges adjusting to new officers who may not have had the same program interests as previous participating officers.
3. Insufficient understanding by many students of the role of police as partners and therefore, officers recruited were not interested in implementing some of the projects/proposals designed by the student.

Outcomes ProAction Perspective

4. Some officers recruited were not familiar with ProAction.
 5. Applications prepared for ProAction were not responsive to questions presented and lacked material information required for funding to be approved.
- Building on lessons learned from the first year, partners involved in this collaboration expressed interested in pursuing a second attempt at this pilot for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Outcomes Centennial Perspective

Time

- 2 hour class not enough time to engage community, partnerships, etc.
- Often interfered with placement

Red Tape

- Issues around police being able to handle money raised through additional fundraising events
- Participation of officers in events leading up to completion of proposal

Outcomes Centennial Perspective

Red Tape

- Conflicting officer schedules and interests
- Officers were assigned as opposed to volunteering affecting motivation

Conflicting Interests

- Meeting the needs of curriculum vs meeting needs of ProAction's grants committee
 - i.e. Police driven initiative vs. student driven initiatives

Student Feedback

- Overall, students loved the experience
- Want to see it done in the community with fewer restrictions and more creativity/autonomy
- Want to pick own organizations
- Want to use ProAction as a funding source, not the exclusive one

Collaboration

- Centennial Faculty
 - Shelley Upshaw
 - Judy Hermann
 - Jean Milligan

- Virginia DiRoma
 - ProAction Executive Director