

2015-2016 Community Engagement Fellows  
Project Report  
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Project Overview: Capstone Project for English Language Endorsement Program

My project aimed at creating meaningful engagement through teacher designed and implemented family/community projects. The students are all practicing teachers in the new hybrid (online and in person) English Language learner endorsement program. The endorsement program is designed to provide teachers with effective strategies in teaching and supporting language learners and their families. In the past, ELL endorsement students learned about theories in cultural competencies and family/community engagement. For this project, students will not only learn the theories but put them into action.

Project Details:

Capstone Project: A brand new course, the capstone project, will be incorporated in the traditional sequence of the one year endorsement program. The hybrid endorsement program will begin in the summer with courses focused on theories. Students will be introduced to the Capstone requirements and asked to brainstorm ideas for involvement that make sense for their individual school community. The project can be a family night at the school site, a family resource center, language classes for families members etc. In the winter, courses will focus on teaching methods and students will create a proposal for the capstone project with the support of instructors. The proposal will be defended and approved for implementation. Finally students will carry out the project in the spring. Upon the completion of the involvement project, students will register for the final course of the endorsement program, the capstone course. This course will be a one credit online course that takes place in the summer. It will include 1) the original proposal for the, 2) description of the project implementation and relevant materials, and 3) reflection on the project including successes, challenges, and lessons learned.

Family/Community Engagement Showcase: In the fall of the following school year, a project showcase will take place at WWU where endorsement program alumni will present their project to new cohorts and broader WWU community. This provides an opportunity to highlight projects, create a platform for discussion, and encourage innovative involvement practices in our community.

Project Reflection:

I have really benefited from the discussions and input of other fellows in the design phase of this project. Their input has been invaluable in helping me determine feasibility, narrowing focus, provide clarity, and rethink sustainability. While the

capstone project has not been implemented, as we are currently in the first year of the hybrid endorsement program, I am excited to see the reception by students and school communities.