

JUNTOS (Joining & Understanding Now, Teens Overcome Separation)

Adult Leaders' Third Meeting

June 4, 2007, 8:30-10:30 AM

NNMC, Administration Building, Room 101

Minutes

Attendees: Adults; Min Park (facilitator), Jose Griego, David Cockerham, Maurice de Segovia, Wayne Torpy, Sharon Stover, Robert Gibson, Lori Heimdahl Gibson, Diana Martinez, Janelle Vigil-Maestas, Donna Schroeder, Cedric Page, Joy Freymiller, Tony Fox, and students; Maria Tapia, Sean Erickson, Jeremy Kasik, Alex Kirk.

Introductions, and a special welcome to President Griego from NNMC and Tony Fox from the LANL Foundation.

Students reported on their May 29th first meeting at CESDP, facilitated by Dr. Brenden:

1. Reviewed the minutes of that meeting, including guiding questions for the day;
 - What are the stereotypes /assumptions about each community?
 - How can youth from both communities plan projects/activities that bridge the divide?
2. Students chose JUNTOS as project name which stands for, "Joining & Understanding the Need to Overcome Separation." (See phrase change below.) Juntos also means "joining together" in Spanish.
3. Students brainstormed ideas for bridging the divide and also discussed the possible challenges.
4. Next steps are:
 - Write a letter to editors of local papers (Jeremy will do the first draft by the next youth meeting on June 21st.)
 - Youth volunteered to present at today's adult meeting.
 - Youth created a sub-committee for doing murals in each community, and one for planning a youth summit.
5. **Next youth meeting is scheduled for June 21 at LAHS Speech/Theatre room from 10AM-1PM with lunch. Coach Scott will make arrangements and order pizza.**

Discussion and vote on changing the phrase for JUNTOS to "Joining & Uniting Now, Teens Overcome Separation."

Discussion of reading materials. . . . Sharon thought we could find money through LA JJAB to order 20-25 copies.

- Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria by Tatum is highly recommended for giving a foundation for thinking and talking about racism and social justice in the US.
- Bless Me, Ultima by Anaya is a Chicano literary classic that is highly recommended.
- The Color of Fear is an excellent video on racism. (Maybe show at the youth summit.)

Other ideas for communities joining. . . .

- Dr. Griego offered NNMC for a joint art show, music festival, digital media arts event, intramural (mixed teams) sports activities, etc. Maybe the youth could challenge the administrators/faculty/staff of NNMC and UNM-LA. NPR (KUNM) has programming for students on the air.
- Joint film projects (EVHS, NNMC, LAHS, UNM-LA)
- Channel 13 has a program on NM music and arts
- Emphasis on the historical perspectives; Hispanic, Native American, Anglo
- School exchange and/or buddy system
- Maurice summed up by saying that we should focus on good things, but not lose sight of the issues that brought us together, for in them is the potential for positive change.

Sub-committee Reports:

- **Funding** - Robert said that we have a full committee now; Ron Martinez, Joe Maestas, David Cockerham, Wayne Torpy, Jim Anderson, and Robert Gibson. They have a plan and a list of potential donors and will be contacting them asap. **Jose Griego donated \$500 out of his Presidential fund to be our first hard donation! Thank you, Dr. Griego and NNMC!** Also, thanks to UNM-LA, ENLACE/Gear-up, and LA JJAB for food, facilitators, and/or meeting spaces. Dr. Griego offered the services of NNMC as the fiscal agent of JUNTOS.
- **Logistics/Press** - Diana, Janelle, and Lori - Diana got a press release out after our last meeting, but we don't know whether anything has been printed yet. Lori and Janelle have been contacting the LA Monitor and the Rio Grande SUN. Both are interested. We will continue getting press releases out and keeping the newspapers in the communication loop.
- **Educational Leadership** - (Marcia Brenden, Sandra Roney, Cedric Page, Frank Orona, Erwin Rivera) - This is a long range strategy. . . no report yet.
- **Coaching** - Joy, Janelle, Maurice, plus whoever signs up to work directly with the students' projects. Diana will coach Jeremy as he writes the letter to the editors.

(Sharon brought a fabulous birthday cake for Lori. We took a break for candles, cake, and song. Thank you, Sharon!)

Strategic Discussion brainstorming vision, mission, goals:

- 10-15 years from now, no boundaries. . . one community
- Embrace, respect differences. . . lives are richer
- "Diverse similarity"
- Living, working together to make a better whole. (Community is greater than the sum of its parts.)
- Promote and value diversity in order to promote community
- **Go home and think about mission statement (vision) and email ideas to Lori. Then Lori will pass ideas on to the mission sub-committee; Min, Janelle, Jeremy, Maurice. They will then come up with concrete ideas to present to the larger groups of youth and adults. Keep it SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound).**

Implementing Youth Ideas . . . Next Steps:

- Include middle school?
- Adults will support and guide in order for students to move forward with their short, medium, and long-term goals.
- Youth Summit (Adult coaches are Maurice, Min, Donna, Sharon, Joy, Tony so far)
 1. 6-9 mos. of planning at least
 2. Possible workshops from student list (Diversity challenges, building healthy relationships, conflict resolution skills, etc.)
 3. Be a foundation for the two communities to do many things
 4. Identify organizations who want to be part of the summit
- Mural project will be challenging. . . . where will they go?
 1. Controversial. . . will be resistance from some people, organizations
 2. LA has an arts council that may help
 3. Juried contest?
 4. Will need to be protected
 5. In the HS gyms?
 6. Put on canvas so they can be moved?
 7. Mixed art teams will give students a chance to work together as a team
 8. Need to incorporate learning about and sharing cultures

Commitment from individual adults:

Min asked all of us to reflect on our own commitment to our youth and the activities they want to do. Are we in it for the long haul? Will we set a good example for the youth to follow?

Identify more youth leaders (a diverse population) and include youth from the pueblos.**Sustainability of JUNTOS Creating a system of support. . . . final thoughts:**

- Dr. Cockerham told of a youth Holocaust exhibit that may come to Española.
- Youth projects have a profound impact in the larger communities.
- This whole effort needs to be youth lead and adult supported.
- Always keep in mind the context of a joint venture.
- Plan and execute ideas
- Adults provide the glue and glitter.
- What are the youth issues in each community?
- Need to break down barriers by collaborating
- No better feeling than to help others (LA got tremendous help from the valley during the fire.)
- Doesn't have to be crisis generated
- What is the youth's buy-in?
- Being a leader means taking responsibility; making tough decisions.
- Need umbrella or fiscal agent that is 501(C)3. . . . can apply for United Way funding.

Next adult JUNTOS meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10th at UNM-LA from 8:30-10:30 AM. Thank you, Dr. Page, for hosting!

Recorder, Lori Heimdahl Gibson, 662-3159, lorihg@swcp.com