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Richford Town School District – Richford Jr./Sr. High School

Grant Summary:

With the support of a Flexible Pathways Career Advisory grant, Richford Town School District will deliver an analysis of data generated by student-led conferences (career interests and future goals) to be shared with schools. A written report will identify curriculum-career connections and include artifacts, experiences, and learning-level connections exemplars generated by students. Richford Jr/Sr High School will host an open house for community-based providers and employers to build relationships and share student career-development experiences as part of their personalized learning planning process. This opportunity will inform the community about their potential new roles in the district's education system and introduce the SY17-18 career advisory work plan.

Work to Date:

Goal 1 of the grant was to review current classroom curriculum for connections to career pathways and determine necessary professional development for teachers. Humanities, math, and science teachers (approximately 50% of staff) used an in-service day to identify existing career pathways and determine necessary professional development. This work was catalogued digitally, using a protocol developed by members of the steering committee.

Math teachers will participate in job-shadowing in Fall 2017 for their professional learning, science teachers will be attending a conference in Fall 2017, and a Humanities teacher took a class on archeology at the Maritime Museum in Vergennes over Summer 2017. The plan is to provide the rest of the staff (elective and English teachers) with this same professional learning experience this fall.

Goal 2 of the grant was to identify and analyze career interests and goals of the student body. A spreadsheet with career-interests survey data representing 8th-12th graders was developed. The data is currently informing the work of the Work-Based Learning Coordinator – next step is to analyze the data for school-wide use. The group is also working to export career data from the LiFT online management system they are using for PLPs.

Goal 3 of the grant was to support teachers and students in developing learning-level examples that demonstrate a connection between classroom and career. The working group was able to develop four field trips:

1. Ninth graders went to the Museum of Science in Boston to explore science careers.
2. The high school jazz band attended a Trombone Shorty concert in Burlington, Vermont to explore the career field of professional musicians. They also performed as part of the jazz festival.

3. Psychology students attended a lecture from a researcher on motivation and brain science in Burlington, Vermont. The lecture was developed for health care professionals so students also interacted with adults in other careers.
4. Middle school students spent the day at Lake Elmore and were able to hear from representatives of five different careers related to the outdoors.

The team also wrote an advisory curriculum for this school year. They developed learning targets and a three week series of lessons for the fall culminating in an open house, and a three week series of lessons in the spring culminating in student led conferences.

Goal 4 of the grant was to develop a more robust connection between school and employers. To accomplish this, the school hosted an employee luncheon. Two employers attended the luncheon and received information on PLPs, flexible pathways, and were invited to partner with the school for the 2017-2018 year.

For more information on this project, or to view exemplars, please contact Laura Frangipane at lfrangipane@richfordk12.net.