

UNIVERSITY AND SCHOOL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

Ranch View School

Naperville, Illinois

Ranch View School and Benedictine University formed a partnership to understand each other better, exchange ideas, share resources, and provide opportunities for each partner to excel. The focus for this year's Ranch View-Benedictine University (RV-BU) partnership was increasing student achievement in literacy, one of Ranch View's school improvement goals. Through this partnership, the university gained pre-clinical classroom experience for students and feedback on syllabi for education courses. The school benefited from the interaction and support of BU students working in the classrooms, in the Learning Resource Center (LRC), and at after-school events.

The Action Team for Partnerships organized meetings with the Ranch View principal and staff and the Benedictine University Education Department. After the partnership was agreed upon, RV classroom teacher and staff volunteers were requested. The Action Team conducted an orientation meeting for participating school staff and university students. In addition, they created a schedule for BU students to work in classrooms assisting with reading groups and other literacy activities. The BU students were also encouraged to assist in the LRC and attend after-school literacy activities. The Action Team hosted a reception to thank the BU students and celebrate the partnership between

Ranch View School and Benedictine University.

The RV-BU partnership was evaluated during the year through reflection sessions conducted by RV teachers with BU students. The reflection sessions also allowed students to ask questions without interrupting the flow of teaching in the classrooms. Time to hold these sessions was a challenge and alternate suggestions were made for communicating with pre-clinical students such as keeping journals between teachers and students.

Both Ranch View School and Benedictine University benefited from their partnership. Ranch View students gained additional assistance and role models for literacy. Benedictine University students benefited from working with elementary school students and the expertise of the RV faculty and staff. Next year, Ranch View School would like to include volunteer work in the Homework Academy as a requirement for BU pre-clinical students. The Action Team might also consider how they can help the BU students increase their knowledge and skills about school, family, and community partnerships.

*Karen Currier, Kirsten Laurin-Kovitz, and
Lynn Rule, Action Team Members*
(630) 420-6575

kcurrier@ncusd203.org; kirsten@anl.gov;
drule@ncusd203.org