

Extension facilitates educational attainment by enabling parents through the Science Bound parents program.

Issue:

Most family practitioners believe that a strong, engaged and nurturing family is the most important factor influencing the lives and outcomes of children. The goal of the Science Bound parents program is to celebrate parent-student-school-community collaborating that foster educational attainment and academic achievement. Another goal is to provide parents with information, support, and the encouragement necessary to help their children excel in Science Bound and graduate from Purdue University. In addition, the program helps to increase parents' knowledge of child development and appropriate ways to stimulate their children's intellectual, language, social, and physical development.

Extension response :

Extension conducted assessments and surveys of parents to measure parents' felt needs and designed our curricula to meet their needs. We held monthly meetings to discuss issues from preparing students for college, to financial literacy, discipline and successful ways to motivate students to excel in school. We organize an annual retreat for parents at Purdue. Forty parents participated in this year three day retreat at Purdue. We have an established advisory board of sixteen parents who assist the director with organizing events for parents and providing feedback on best ways to help parents and their children. We coordinate a semester parent teacher conference for all students in the program. The purpose is to increase interaction between parents and teachers. Extension has provided college prep classes, monthly and quarterly newsletter to share program successes and best practices for student engagement.

Impact:

- Sixty percent of parents achieve "Three for Me" pledge (teacher visit, attend at least three parents meetings and help with homework).
- Eight parents have taken advantage of the parent option program. Three parents have graduated with BA degrees at local higher education institutions.
- An active parents advisory council that support program director with program planning and evaluation
- Seventy percent of parents have reported that their children's grades have improved due to the positive soft skills and peer-to-peer networks of the USA parents program.
- One hundred percent of parents reported that their understanding of college admissions processes has improved greatly as a result of hands-on

workshops provided by Purdue Admissions office staff

- Eighty five percent of parents reported that they understand the need to encourage their children to meet the high tech and life science economy of Indianapolis

Anecdotal:

- “The Science Bound Parents retreat was exciting, fun, educational, hands-on, meaningful and awesome!”
- “The retreat brought back memories of my childhood years at school. I learned about the broad scope of the sciences and technology fields, how to solder, how to make a flash light and about chemistry. I also learned to find my way around campus.”
- “What I find most beneficial is getting together and hearing views of other parents with academically inclined students. I don’t feel alone because Science Bound staff answers any and every question you have and they keep you intact on what you need to do to help your child succeed in Science Bound Program.”
- “I feel privileged to be a part of such a great program because we learn and share new things, and learn how to handle different situations by professionals who present materials relative to raising my son.”

Poor parenting skills lead to child abuse and neglect. This neglect produces negative outcomes such as school failure, juvenile delinquency, gang activity and other negative outcomes for youth. The Science Bound parents program help prevent child abuse because we teach positive discipline and alternative ways to influence children in a positive way. The Science Bound parents program provide parents with positive parenting skills, college prep information, effective discipline strategies and peer support to understanding and practice effective research based child development principles that enables them to make better informed choices and decisions. The enormous tax savings to the community will enable us to enjoy reduced rates in school dropout, reduce criminal and gang activity, reduce teenage pregnancy rates and huge savings on school remediation services.

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