Tracy Richter

Reflection 5.4

**5.4 Strategic Planning and Assessment**

Candidates communicate and collaborate with students, teachers, administrators, and community members to develop a library program that aligns resources, services, and standards with the school's mission. Candidates make effective use of data and information to assess how the library program addresses the needs of their diverse communities.

**Artifacts**

1. [ISTC 789 Reading Promotion Program](../Internships/Glenwood%20Middle/Proposal%20for%20Radical%20Readers.docx)

2. [ISTC 789 Journal 4R](../ISTC789/ISTC%20789_Journal_4R.docx)

3. [ISTC 601 Action Plan](file:///E:\Assignment6_ActionPlan_McHugh_Richardson_Richter.docx)

**Relevance**

As a media specialist, you have to be able to plan and assess your program to ensure that students, staff, and the community are all getting the resources and services they need and want through the library. I know how important it is to communicate and collaborate with students and the rest of the school community to ensure the library program meets their needs. My artifacts reflect how I have planned and assessed a library program and how I will continue to do so in my future library.

In my middle school placement, I was able to create and implement a reading promotion program. Since The Common Core Curriculum does not necessarily emphasis reading for pleasure, students were not coming down to the library as much and were not reading what they wanted to read. Therefore, I communicated with the administration and the English teachers to implement this program in their school, and acquire the prizes necessary to get the students enticed to participate in the program. The principal and the teachers were all very excited to join in and promote this program with me. The principal was also able to get the PTA on-board, and they volunteered to purchase prizes for the students, like iTunes gift cards and an iPad mini. I assessed the program after implementation, and it was deemed a success. Teachers were bringing their students down to the library more to check-out books, students were excited about reading, and the student who ended up winning the iPad mini, was one of the school’s most deserving students, who did not have the finances to purchase an item like that for themselves otherwise. I was very happy about that outcome! I will create programs like in this in my future, and go about it in the same way. Communicating and collaborating with other members of the school community has so many benefits, and assessing the outcomes of the program will show them that our collaboration was well worth the effort.

My second artifact was a reflection on my time at my elementary school placement and the diversity of the school’s community. I was able to truly observe the school environment and the needs of the students, and consider how my mentor was able to meet their needs and give them all, the chance to succeed. Little aspects of her program and actions, made a huge difference with her students. For example, making sure the library was always available to students during the day because they do not get the opportunity to buy books or get a ride to the public library, or tailoring instruction to meet the needs of special education students. When I begin my career as a media specialist, I will immediately assess the needs of the students at my school, and collaborate with the school community, to determine how to best meet their needs and provide them with the most appropriate resources and services for their continuing achievement. Then, I will plan and design my library program around them and serve them to the best of my ability. For example making all the resources available to them, whether in print or online, having total access to my library, and creating lessons that meet the needs of *all* my students will be essential aspects that I will align with my library program. I will constantly assess the students and myself, so that I can improve their achievement and my practice.

Lastly, my third artifact is an action plan for media specialists to help them promote and integrate Common Core in schools. Although this does focus on Common Core, many of the actions that are included could be used for many focus areas, and be used as a way to promote the library program and the media specialist’s role. For example, communicating with the school community through a newsletter, asking the community for feedback on the program and suggestions on how to improve it, creating school-wide fund-raisers to promote and develop the library program, and much more. We also correlated each action with the resources that would be necessary for its success, who would be involved in the action, how we would assess or measure the action, and the completion date of the action. This ensures strategic planning and assessment of the library program and puts the media specialist on a streamlined track to help improve the program as much as possible. I will use this artifact to help me plan what actions to take, in order to align its resources, services, and standards with the school’s mission and to meet the needs of the entire school community. It also helps me stay organized and gives me suggestions on how to measure the performance of the actions, and if I am accomplishing my goals. I will continue to add to this list in order for my future program to stay consistently successful and to meet the needs of the students.