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News and Notes

Northwestern Students Lend Innovative Ideas to the Mildred Huff Lending Library

Northwestern University Engineering Design majors lent their creativity to Leap by building a series of prototypes for a possible new book storage system for the Mildred Huff Lending Library.

The partnership was part of the Engineering Design and Communication (EDC) course, which uses projects for actual clients to teach students how to design effectively in response to real-world problems, and to communicate effectively as part of the design process. Students presented their creative and functional prototypes and a comprehensive report at a design fair that culminated the project.

Language Through Science Selected for CPS Pilot

Language Through Science (LTS) has been selected by Chicago Public Schools' Office of Math and Science Instruction (OMS) and Office of Early Childhood Development, to participate in a pilot program this spring.

The purpose of the program is to identify and select standards and research-based science instructional materials for preschool classrooms. Should LTS be favored by the teachers who will utilize it in their classrooms, the OMS will make it available through their resource center to classrooms who wish to use it next year.

Contact Leap Learning Systems to learn more about Language Through Science.

Volunteers Needed

Attention students! There are many ways to gain meaningful and hands-on experience with Leap Learning Systems' educational programs this spring and summer.

Past volunteers have assisted at trainings, worked at programs, and have collaborated with Leap staff to prepare presentations. Please visit our volunteer page for a list of updated volunteer opportunities. If you are a new volunteer, complete a volunteer application on-line at www.leaplearningsystems.org/getinvolved.

NEWS FROM LEAP LEARNING SYSTEMS

April 2009

Students and Teachers Mastering the Art of Communication

Leap Partners With City College's Upward Bound Program to Prepare High School Students for College

More than two dozen students from the **Upward Bound Program** at **Chicago State University (CSU)** participated in a three-day **Language for Scholars** workshop in March led by Leap Coaches Roger Anderson, Juliane Culver and Abbie Olszewski.

The purpose of the program was to strengthen students' presentation and communication skills. Students participated in a speaker's workshop, learned the most effective way to introduce themselves to others, and learned interview tips which they then practiced with community professionals who interviewed them on the last day.

Charter Students and Teachers Boost Their Presentation Skills

Students and teachers at the **Chicago International Charter School (CICS)** Bucktown campus partnered again with Leap Learning Systems to successfully complete an eight week **Language for Scholars (LFS)** program.

During the second semester of this school year, 7th and 8th graders along with their teachers at CICS Bucktown participated in a series of educational and professional development workshops. The aim of the program was for students and teachers to learn how to more effectively use **Leap Speech Goals** such as articulation, intonation, body language, and projection in school and away from school.

Led by Leap coaches Jen Preschern and Dr. John Lybolt, participants at the end of

the program had all made improvements in the use of their Academic English and Leap Speech Goals. Commented Dr. Lybolt, "By the end of the program, all 30 students in each class, 100%, were active participants."

"This is a great in-school professional development program that provides teachers with additional support and strategies on how to help make their classrooms more 'language rich'," added Michael Levesque, Leap's Executive Director. "After participating in LFS CICS Bucktown teachers know how to help their students speak with more confidence and purpose in a wide variety of settings."

Having effective communication skills is essential for students and employees in the 21st Century. LFS helps students and teachers in developing these skills. To learn more visit www.leaplearningsystems.org.

Invest in Education: Donate Today!

A donation to Leap Learning Systems is an investment in the future of deserving children. Please make a gift today - and help us bring our cutting-edge, transformative literacy and language programs to students and teachers across Chicago and around the country.

A gift of any size truly makes a difference. Visit www.leaplearningsystems.org/donate

Upcoming Trainings

April 17th - Leap Staff led an all-day StarNet workshop for CPS early childhood educators titled, *"We're Bringing Language Back: Strategies for Promoting Oral Language and Phonemic Awareness in Inclusive Classrooms"*.

Visit our website often for information on other trainings around the city. To schedule an in-service at your school, contact Leap Learning Systems.

Upcoming Language for Scholars Workshops

- Youth members from the **Apostolic Church of God** will participate in three Language for Scholars (LFS) workshops this spring.
- Recipients of high school scholarships from the **Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund (DMSF)** will attend one of two week-long LFS programs this summer.
- Eighth-grade students who attend **Chicago International Charter School** Northtown and Longwood campuses will participate in a two-week LFS program this summer that will prepare and excite them for high school success.

It's not too late to schedule a LFS workshop for your students! Contact Leap Learning Systems today.

