

Proposed SYNERGIES/Advancing SCILS Strategies



(1) Design coordinated, connected and synergistic STEM, creativity and invention learning opportunities in school and out of school

- Share related tools and materials (Asset Map Database, Educational Matrix, ABM)
- Create sustainable position for at least a half-time Community coordinator / Resource broker
- Develop capacity-building and a community of practice around sharing research and data about the importance of peer-peer interaction, mentors and family engagement in supporting interest/identity development to foster ways to integrate at least one design principle into each program/partner activity.
- Integrate Synergies youth interest data to inform partner activities and practices
- Develop a web-based calendar/ list serve which youth, their families, and educators (in-school & out-of-school) can access; in-school and out-of-school educators can update and add events and activities so that all in system know what youth are doing in school – curriculum, activities --and what is available for youth out of school
- Coordinated promotion and recruitment strategies such as shared recruitment and registration documents and co-presenting to groups of youth already engaged in interest-based activities (what's the next step to pursue my interest?)
- Cross-share data about youth being collected by SYNERGIES and the schools.

(2) Leverage adolescent youths' natural tendencies for peer-peer interactions

- Establish a Youth Advisory Council (either overlapping with the SUN school council or at least sharing some members)
- Work in collaboration with IRCO, who will be managing the SUN community school at Parkrose Middle School (PMS), to expand upon the weekly afterschool club led by OSU Extension 4-H Youth Development; first task is to add a weekly MESA program at PMS
- Ensure every educator (in-school and out-of-school), mentor, etc. that is part of the project receives an interest profile of the youth they are engaged with
- Create youth portfolios that track what s/he has been involved in to share with educator (in-school and out-of-school) and family (perhaps youth "owns" this)
- Create an interest-based activities menu of what is available for youth out of school, aligned with the calendar system
- Hold a youth interest fair (perhaps youth-organized or co-organized with youth?) showcasing SYNERGIES/Advancing SCILS organizations and activities--an event to recruit, pass out literature, proactively build interest communities-- maybe have youth already engaged at tables/booth
- Work with youth to create some kind of social media presence for project
- Develop leadership opportunities for youth
 - Mentoring elementary/or younger PMS youth)
 - Youth plan and lead a STEM, Creating, Inventing and Designing conference

(3) Support interest-based mentorships (with adults & peers)

- Conduct a specific audit of current mentoring in this community beyond MESA, nConnect and 4-H Youth Development
- Establish a Mentor Advisory Council
- Develop collaborative strategy for recruiting potential mentors (industry partners / retired scientists/inventors/high school, community college and university students/hobbyists) such as shared promotional materials and joint presentations
- Create shared mentor orientation, training and on-going support that includes a focus on the importance of interest development and engagement and the critical role they can play
- Develop a system that matches youth interest with equally interested mentor (youth or adult); perhaps identify key people in the interest areas to be the contact - the specialist - so the mentor does not have to have all of the so we would know who to call to help them connect with a mentor

(4) Engage families in support of youth interests

- Hire on-the-ground bilingual family engagement coordinators who walk around, go to families' homes with goal of creating a group of committed parent/guardian leaders who support the effort and can connect to other families
- Establish a Family Advisory Council
- Create a series of parent/guardian workshops that educate them on how to support their children's learning (in and out of school) with a focus on the importance of interest development and engagement and the critical role they can play
- Start working with parents that are engaged at the elementary school - let them know that there are opportunities to continue to be engaged at middle and high school also
- Create a mini-grant program for families to support their children's interests (perhaps "managed" by a Parent/Guardian leader)?
- Host family STEM, creativity and invention nights and weekend family engagement activities (e.g. field trips, community garden, community improvement projects such as restoring the Slough)
- Be present in places like Argay Park and community centers at schools and at existing community events where families are (Summer in the Park, free movie nights at Rossi Farms)
- Reconnect with faith-based leaders to make them aware of our activities