

EL CIVICS – MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY AWARD



Some Successful Strategies

What is the Making a Difference Award?

- Recognizes agencies that have fostered and encouraged their students to actively use newly acquired skills to interact with their communities
- Interaction has been life changing
- Makes a difference to students, their families and communities

How can we be recognized?

...Follow These 4 Steps

1. Begin by selecting COAAP that has high student need or interest.
2. Expand instruction and student learning beyond the classroom
3. Keep track of how students interact with the community
4. Complete nomination form on www.casas.org

Step 1:

- Use a broad or open-ended format for the Needs Assessment
- Allow for student comments to track trends or areas of high interest
- Interview a small sampling of students to follow-up on areas of high interest

Step 2:

- Once you have selected the COAAP, link it to current core curriculum
- Involve students in research on information in their community
- Bring guest speakers or student presentations on the information they have found

Step 3:

- Have students keep a log on what information they have learned
- Journal on how this new information might change their lives
- Host a culminating event for all students, such as a health fair or community resource fair

Step 4:

- Describe the project or activity
- Outline the Learning Objective Addressed
- Summarize the project/activity
- Describe how students applied learning to positively affect the community

Example of the 4 Steps Using Objective 28.5

Step 1

- After completing the student Needs Assessment, interview a small group of students about health services in their community and ask what concerns they might have.
- Select teachers/classes that will be doing the health unit

Expand curriculum

Step 2

- Connect the COAAP with curriculum that is already being used, i.e. what units in *Stand Out* already deal with health
- Have students in class develop a list of questions and/or concerns regarding health care

Expand Curriculum (cont)

Step 2 (cont)

- Contact community health care providers to arrange a guest speaker
- Have students go on-line or to medical offices to gather authentic medical history forms
- Practice role play responding to physician's directions based on student reported symptoms or experiences

Interacting with the Community

Step 3

- Have students assist in arranging a campus Health Fair with local providers
- Keep a class log of reported student visits regarding health information and how studying this unit has helped

Completing the application

Step 4

- Use student logs to document changes
- Must have a minimum of five students who applied learning to positively affect the community