

NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Supporting Actions for Engagement (SAFE) Project Overviews

Spring 2004

Course: VETC 110, Introduction to Veterinary Technology
VETC 230, Veterinary Technician Externship

Instructors: Dr. Susan Stadler, Director Veterinary Technician Program
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Project Overview:

Students in the designated courses as well as the vet tech club NAVTA worked on a common message: pet preparedness. Resources developed by the students included:

- Pet emergency brochures containing pertinent information about your pet: name and number of vet; medications; poison control number; references for local animal shelters; emergency contact information.
- Pet preparedness kits that included food; bowls; bottled water; collar; leash; medications; blankets; toys.
- Mobile kiosk designed and built by the students that housed all relevant preparedness information; kiosk was taken to various local events to promote pet disaster preparedness

Students have spoken at local fairs, schools and college events to raise the level of awareness regarding pet preparedness. Preparedness was centered on small animals.

Fall 2004

Project Overview:

Students continued project as described in spring 2004. In addition 4 students participated in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. This included 24 hours of basic preparedness training designed to mobilize citizens when an emergency strikes. These trained citizens organize their neighbors, friends and family prior to the arrival of the first responders. The premise behind the training is that the owners of pets must be prepared before they can help their pets.

Spring 2005

Project Overview:

Project continued. In addition faculty members were interviewed by a local radio station where they were able to promote the students' activities. Students raised funds to purchase 2 bullet proof vests for local K-9 patrols. Large animal preparedness was the focus and 2 equine emergency kits were developed.

Summer/Fall 2005

Spring 2006

Project Overview:

Students continued to create pet preparedness kits. They spent many hours designing, purchasing and assembling the kits. Then Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck and the students focused their energies on fundraising and creating more kits to send to the victims of the hurricanes. They are currently in the process of supporting agencies dedicated to the rescue of displaced pets and will continue this project in spring 2006.

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Supporting Actions for Engagement (SAFE) Project Overview

Fall 2004

Course: CRIM 121G, Criminology

Instructor: Tom Marakovits
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Project Overview:

Criminal justice students were offered the opportunity to participate in SAFE grant projects by supporting the local Northampton County SPCA humane officer. One student spent 31 hours over the course of the semester assisting in this capacity. The humane officer's duties include law enforcement, however, their main goal and duty is the prevention of cruelty to animals. This is done by educating the community. Because the Red Cross shelters do not house animals, educating the public on the necessity of pet preparedness for disasters was imperative and a unique approach to help prevent cruelty to animals. Many people will not leave their homes in times of disaster because they refuse to leave their pets. Preventative education can help avoid loss of both human and animal life.

The following is an excerpt from the student's reflection piece stating why she was interested in this project: "...to bring attention to an area of law enforcement that is often overlooked and suffers a lack of respect from other agencies within the criminal justice system, as well as from the community.....also interested in creating and implementing educational programs to present to schools and community groups...in the process of compiling a brochure for community distribution concerning emergency preparedness for animals in the event of a disaster."

Course: BIOS 107, Introduction to Biology

Instructor: Dr. Sharon Lee-Bond
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Project Overview:

This course offered participation in a service learning project in lieu of the required yeast experiment. Students were required to design a research project that addressed service, research methods and disaster preparedness. Two students created the "Safety Bingo" project. They developed a bingo game for elderly residents in a local nursing home that reinforced emergency signage at the facility. Students kept statistics on the levels of

recognition and concluded that over the course of 4 weeks, residents markedly improved their recognition of the safety symbols. They also concluded that not only elderly residents in nursing homes could benefit from playing the safety bingo game, but young children, and non-English speaking people as well should be targeted. Service learning and domestic preparedness came together to provide companionship for elderly residents, enhance their knowledge of emergency signage, create a better prepared group in the event of a disaster, and give students the opportunity to learn how research is conducted.*

*Students presented their findings at the League for Innovations in the Community Colleges National Disaster Summit in March 2005 in New York City.

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Supporting Actions for Engagement (SAFE) Project Overview

Spring 2005

Course: NURS 101, Introduction to Nursing

Instructors: Fabiola Espinal
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Project Overview:

Nursing students in this course are required to do a poster presentation on a designated topic related to health care. Extensive research is required, interviews with designated experts, dissemination of information and written and oral classroom reports. Homeland security /disaster preparedness was the choice for a number of students who focused their research on the following topics:

- Anthrax and bioterrorism
- Small pox as a lethal weapon
- How blood banks are affected by terrorism
- America Red Cross and the educational component to disaster preparedness
- Radioactive attacks
- Bioterrorism awareness

Course: JOUR 103, Newswriting

Instructor: Rob Hays
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Project Overview:

NCC Director of Emergency Services, Tom Barnowski, presented information to the students regarding responsible journalistic reporting of disaster/emergencies in the media. Students interviewed the following local emergency responders:

- 911 dispatch center
- volunteer firefighters
- emergency medical technicians

These interviews appeared in the April issue of the college newspaper, *The Commuter*. The articles focused on the challenges faced by emergency responders each day, the continuing decline in volunteer firefighters, and the importance of CERT training.

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Project Overview**

Fall 2005

Course: JOUR 103, Newswriting

Instructor: Rob Hays
610-861-4159
rhays@northampton.edu

Project Overview:
Project from spring 2005 continues.

NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Supporting Actions for Engagement (SAFE) Project Overview

Spring 2006

Course: BUSA 131, Principles of Marketing

Instructor: Wendi Achey
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Project Overview:

In lieu of the traditional marketing project, students will be offered the opportunity to develop their own project centered on domestic preparedness. They will visit local businesses with promotional materials and engage the community in the promotion of the philosophy that we should be individually prepared for an emergency and not wait for the government to help us. There are steps that can be taken to prepare such as CERT training to better equip citizens in an emergency. Raising the level of awareness and education will be the focus of the projects.

Course: BIOS 150, Biology II (Plant/Animal/Ecology)

Instructor: John Leiser
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Project Overview:

Students in this course will collaborate with the Monroe County Conservation District and Brodhead Watershed Association. Due to a tremendous amount of growth in the Monroe County area of Pennsylvania, flooding has become a problem during heavy rains. Before this becomes unmanageable, the Conservation District will be updating their flood plans and NCC students will be assisting in this project. The county stands 4th nationally as one of the fastest growing areas and this project will have far reaching effects on emergency preparedness as plans are unfolded to avert future disasters. Students will also be monitoring streams as part of the updated plan.

Course: Sociology Course to be determined.

Instructor: Erin Reilly
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