



RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

P.O. Box 3300, Somerville, New Jersey 08876-1265
(908) 526-1200 • website: <http://www.raritanval.edu>

Raritan Valley Community College Supporting Actions for Engagement (SAFE) Project Service Learning Homeland Security Course Projects Overview

Spring 2004

TRENDS IN NURSING

Project: *Civic Engagement and Service-Learning in Nursing Education*

Instructors: Janice Buttler and Rosalia Hamilton, Nursing

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All students worked in groups of five to research a homeland security topic related to health care targeted at specific populations such as the elderly, pregnant women, and young children. Students then matched their findings with particular community organizations needing assistance and collaborated with the organization staff to develop a service project. Final products and services developed and also disseminated to the larger community included workshops, information brochures, fact sheets and training sessions.

FOUNDATIONS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Project Title: *Preparing Children in Child Care Centers for Disasters*

Instructor: Joanne Labish Taylor, Ed.D, Education

Contact: Service Learning Office, lmoog@raritanval.edu, (908) 526-1200 Ext. 8284

All students observed preschool and kindergarten classes, reviewed literature on the social and emotional needs of young children during a crisis, and interviewed school staff to discuss existing emergency plans and needs of child care centers. Based on their findings, students then developed their own unit plans for the schools to help children face emergencies. Their plans also were shared with staff and parents.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Project Title: *Thematic Children's Book*

Instructor: Dr. Patricia Wojtowicz, Education

Contact: pwojtowi@raritanval.edu, (908) 526-1200 Ext. 8539

All students wrote, illustrated and prepared an original children's book based around homeland security topics for young children. Students then shared their work with other college students and children in K-3 grades.

MARKETING I

Project Title: *Developing a Homeland Security Marketing Plan*

Instructor: Allan Korn, Marketing

Contact: Service Learning Office, lmoog@raritanval.edu, (908) 526-1200 Ext. 8284

A group of students prepared a comprehensive marketing plan for the Somerset County Health Department's newest program, *The Medical Reserve Corp.* The plan offered strategies to help the organization increase awareness in the community for volunteers that are needed during emergencies and the opportunity to receive training for such events from this program.

WEB PAGE DEVELOPMENT

Project Title: *Electronic Newsletter for Homeland Security*

Instructor: Bonnie Thornborough, Visual and Performing Arts

Contact: bthornbo@raritanval.edu, (908) 526-1200 Ext. 8226

A group of students created Criminal Justice Institute Electronic Newsletter for the Criminal Justice Institute that oversees the Somerset County Police Academy. Designed to provide a series of articles and resources on homeland security, the newsletter will continually advise the community about homeland security issues, providing information for law enforcement, students, faculty and the larger community.



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Fall 2004

HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

Project Title: *Together We Prepare*

Instructor: Luevina Wright, Human Services

Contact: Service Learning Office, lmoog@rartanval.edu, (908) 526-1200 Ext. 8284

All students enrolled in this course are assisting the American Red Cross in disseminating their *Together We Prepare* program. The program includes a 30 minute presentation that enhances people's abilities to prepare for and respond to any disaster or emergency. It includes a power point presentation, brochures and survey encouraging citizens to take five action steps that are: making a plan, building a kit, getting trained, volunteering and giving blood. Presentations are being made to various groups such as clubs, churches, nursing homes, after-school programs and schools. Each student identifies an appropriate group and schedules a meeting for the presentation. As part of their reflection exercise within the classroom, students engage in group discussions, role-playing and essay writing that critically examines homeland security and emergency preparedness issues among different populations within the community. Students reflect on their experiences from different perspectives and evaluate their usefulness as providers of human services.

NUTRITION, HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Project Title: *Homeland Security Emergency Plan for Child Care Centers and Preschools*

Co-Instructors: Doris Sabin and Lynda Sanecki, Early Childhood Education

Contact: dsabin@raritanval.edu, (908) 526-1200 Ext. 8800

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Each student is developing a comprehensive emergency plan for an early childhood setting that:

- Meets NJ state licensing regulations for child care centers
- Addresses the guidelines set forth in the National Association for Young Children's accreditation standards
- Delineates the role of all staff during such an emergency. It should include the responsibilities, but is not limited to, director, lead teachers, teacher assistants, custodial staff, housekeeping, kitchen and parents.
- Specifies the materials that are needed for each type of anticipated emergency
- Outlines a method or procedure for updating pertinent information in emergency preparedness on a regular basis. It must include at least two other sources in addition to the American Red Cross and the federal government.
- Provide a professional reflection on the student's concerns and knowledge of the emergency procedures.

The students' emergency plans will be presented to the class for a group review and discussion of the individual proposal. At the conclusion of the class review, the class will then draft a model plan drawing on their own research and experiences in addition to those presented in class. This final plan will be distributed to all in the class for their own future reference. This final plan will be distributed to the staff of the Children's Campus at RVCC, a campus based early childhood program, for review and implementation.

PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSING

Project Title: *Violence and Terrorism: Threats to Mental Health*

Instructor: Susan Williams, Nursing

Contact: swilliam@raritanval.edu, (908) 526-1200 Ext. 8252

A research paper is one of the requirements for successful completion of this course and all students will be required to address the mental health issue associated with the events of 9-11.

According to Fortinash and Worret (2004) "...numerous reports of increased mental disorders in both adults and children appeared in the literature." The research paper will address the mental health issues in our community and the world at large. The World Health Organization is gathering statistics on the types of disorders and the symptoms of stress related to these events.

As part of the research program, information regarding mental health resources will be distributed to local community organizations for Somerset and Hunterdon Counties.

TORTS

Project Title: *Rights and Liabilities When a Volunteer Refuses to Respond in an Emergency*

Instructors: Melanie Morris and David Katz, Paralegal Studies

Contact: mmorris@raritanval.edu, (908) 526-1200 Ext. 8252

Two Torts classes are performing legal research in the area of rights and liabilities when a volunteer refuses to respond to a call related to Homeland Security.

Volunteers may be among the first respondents in emergency situations. Such situations could include calls to sites where biological agents are suspected (e.g. anthrax), calls to treat individuals exposed to diseases (e.g. small pox), and calls to sites of terrorist attacks. Volunteers are urgently needed in emergent situations.

Student participants in fall Torts classes will research the rights and liabilities of both government agencies and volunteers if the volunteer refuses to respond to an emergent call. Students will develop materials that can serve as guidance to townships, municipalities, and charitable organizations.



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Spring 2005

ENGLISH I

Project Title: *Together We Prepare*

Instructor: Stacie McCormick, English

Contact: Service Learning Office, lmoog@raritanval.edu, (908) 526-1200 Ext. 8284

All students enrolled in this course are being trained by the American Red Cross to disseminate their “Together We Prepare” program. The program includes a 30 minute presentation that enhances people’s abilities to prepare for and respond to any disaster or emergency. It includes a power point presentation, brochures and survey that encourage citizens to take five action steps that are: making a plan, building a kit, getting trained, volunteering and giving blood. Presentations are being made to various groups such as clubs, churches, nursing homes, after-school programs and schools. Each student identifies an appropriate group and schedules a meeting for the presentation. Students will then respond to their experience in writing. Because English I focuses on critical thinking and close examination of our culture, students will take those principles and apply them in their writing. Students will address questions such as: What is patriotism? How do the writers in our text define patriotism and how do you define it? How has your participation in the Together We Prepare program helped to shape your definition?

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATON

Project Title: *Together We Prepare*

Instructor: Luevina Wright, Communication

Contact: Service Learning Office, lmoog@raritanval.edu, (908) 526-1200 Ext. 8284

All students enrolled in this course are practicing interpersonal communication skills by presenting the American Red Cross power point presentation, “Together We Prepare” to various community organizations and businesses. Students are being trained by the American Red Cross to learn about basic emergency plans and subsequently identifying groups in the community who could benefit from the presentation. While helping to raise awareness in the community about the important topic of emergency preparedness, the presentations are also facilitating the students understanding of interpersonal skills and concepts such as active listening, perception, self-awareness, personal management and interpersonal dynamics, through role-playing and writing exercises.

INTERMEDIATE SPANISH II

Project Title: *Disaster Preparedness for Non-Native English Speakers*

Instructor: Aaron Merino, Communication and Languages

Contact: amerino@raritnaval.edu, (908) 526-1200 Ext. 8536

Students enrolled in the course will be helping non-native English speaking adults who are volunteer participants in an emergency preparedness drill at the College during the week April 4 – 10, 2005. Students will assist with translating forms and helping with directions. The event is part of an international-level emergency preparedness exercise. Also participating in the exercise is Connecticut, Canada and the United Kingdom. In total, there are over 30 Federal Agencies participating, and over 15 State Agencies, including Department of Health, State Police, State Attorney General's office, Department of Human Services and others.

The scenario impacting New Jersey will be a bioterrorist attack, involving the release of aerosolized bacteria that causes Pneumonic Plague. The exercise will involve every hospital (including Somerset Medical) in the state, testing their surge capacity capabilities and every LINCOS agency (primarily County Health Departments), which will be required to open up a clinic (referred to as a POD – Point of Dispensing) to dispense 'medication' (which will be empty containers) to approximately 500 residents. Five hundred volunteers are needed for the event and many of them will be speaking Spanish as well as other languages.

Through journaling, essay writing and in-class discussions, students will reflect on their cross cultural experiences, what it means to be an American citizen and the implications for non-native English speakers during an emergency.

METHODS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Project Title: *Homeland Security and its Place in the Early Childhood Setting*

Instructor: Kimberly Schirner, Education

Contact: kschirne@raritanval.edu, (908) 526-1200 Ext. 8286

All students will work together over the course of the spring semester to develop a suggested curriculum for Homeland Security. Students will align objectives and activities with the state standards for this age level. The developed curriculum will be posted on the website for county, state and national reference. During the course, certain professionals in the field will be consulted and asked to help advise the students. Through the development of the curriculum students will learn about the several different teaching methods that they can use to implement the curriculum's objectives.