



PRESS RELEASE

Using Collegiate Service-Learning to Meet the Needs of Disadvantaged Youth

December 1, 2005

Florida International University, a large, urban university, undergraduate education majors aspiring to be middle/secondary teachers are involved in a service-learning mentoring project with adjudicated, academically at-risk secondary youth weekly during the course of a content-area reading course. The project provides collaboration in a real-world setting by developing good teaching skills in pre-service teachers and improving learning-how-to-learn skills to foster academic independence in youth. The FIU students mentor the youth in a supervised field application of their prior week's class experiential instruction through the use of actual academic text materials to render instruction more authentic.

The purpose of the service-learning collaboration between TROY (Teachers Rehabilitating Our Youth) Academy and FIU ACADEMY (Academic Competence, Achievement, Determination, Empowerment, Mentoring for Youth) is to provide an active culture of learning for TROY's after-school program.

TROY students gain empowerment toward independence in learning and education, increased attendance, better attitudes toward school, and lowered recidivism. Mentoring from university students also provides role modeling and self-efficacy development. The pre-service teachers (FIU mentors) experience authentic secondary teacher development which focuses on academic and socially at-risk youth, develop awareness of alternative educational settings, and gain confidence as an educator who can make a real difference.



Disciplines involved: Content-Area Reading Teacher Education, Middle/high school literacy in all subject areas

Number of Florida International Students: 50

Number of youth: 30-50

Contact: Sharon Kossack, Ph.D. or Debra M. Pane, M.S., FIU, Miami, FL, 33199

Photos: FIU pre-service teachers mentor TROY Academy youth



Florida | **Campus Compact**

Media Contact:

Justin Cross, Public Relations Assistant

Email: justin@floridacompact.org

Phone: (850) 488-7782