

Forging Partnerships Between Schools and Public Libraries
ECU's Librarian to Librarian Networking Summit
Saturday, February 23, 2008

WELCOME!

Facilitators:

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Session Notes:

Collaborative projects:

- Adopt-a-School program (see presenter's handout)
- check out public library books at school site - Rocky Mount
- library card application drives
- joint training programs so public & school librarians get to know each other
- joint grant writing projects
- work exchanges
- Gaston Co. - 2nd graders targeted - field trip to public library branch, program & library card promotion
- teacher borrower cards (fewer items, longer borrowing time for teachers in Mecklenburg Co.)
- share information about school assignments with your public librarians!
- Homework Center
- provide space at public library for tutoring (America Reads program - <http://www.ed.gov/inits/americanreads/index.html>)
- textbooks in the public library
- Senior Projects - help on research end/volunteer judges

Challenges:

- finding a school to hook up with
- need school board/principal approval/support
- many schools, limited staff at public library
- need to develop relationships between people
- public libraries willing to loan books to teachers/schools, but if they're lost - teacher has to pay
- teachers are busy people, everybody's busy
- red tape of communication in a school system

Overcoming the challenges:

- convene meetings among area media specialists & public librarians to talk over issues, needs, ideas
- focus on one grade to make a bigger impact
- it's a two-way street - help each other - what can the school do for the public library? include in training opportunities, grant projects, keep them informed about what's going on in the school (assignment alerts)
- cooperative acquisitions