Cabrini Connections Assignment

Purpose: The purpose of this quarter long assignment is to help you fulfill several of the goals of the Explore Chicago Course, of the Common Hour and of the First Year Experience. You will use a variety of resources to help you gain knowledge about the effect of poverty on education in Chicago and to comprehend, apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate that knowledge. This, in turn, will help you acquire the necessary skills and strategies to be a successful student and a critical thinker.

In addition, you will be completing meaningful research for a real life organization that will use your findings to increase understanding and visibility of Tutor-Mentor programs, or the lack thereof, in high risk neighborhoods in the city of Chicago.

Assignment: Your project this year is actually a continuation of the project begun by the Fall ’09 Explore Chicago class. They identified, researched and wrote about tutor-mentoring programs in different areas of the city. What they discovered was general background information. Your assignment will be to continue their investigation by focusing on the financial needs of these organizations. As we did last year, we will divide the class into teams and each team will focus on a different area of the city. Each member of the team will focus on a particular neighborhood within the larger area. Your assignment will have 4 major components:

1. Research: You will read articles about poverty and its impact on learning. Next, you will begin to focus on your assigned area, gathering demographic information and identifying resources, especially tutoring-mentoring programs, in that area. You will visit those program’s websites in order to get to know them and then contact the programs in person to discuss how they are funded. Perhaps you may visit those programs in person. Then you will compare your team’s statistics with those gathered by other teams.

2. Writing: You will chronicle your research by writing weekly articles about the T/M programs: program descriptions, examples of successful collaborations, how people can help, etc. As mentioned above, your primary focus will be on the financial needs of these organizations: how are they funded? How much of their funding is from donors? How have their financial needs changed? What has been the impact of their funding on their programs?

3. Projecting: Based on your analysis of your research, you will discuss the future funding needs of these organizations and what will be the impact if those funding needs are not met. How can people influence public policy regarding the effects of poverty on education?
5. **Leadership and Service:** You will be asked to communicate what you are learning through networks and channels that are available to you, resulting in more people from the DePaul community and your own network, learning from the information you are collecting and sharing.

**Final Project:** If possible, you will present your findings at the semi-annual Tutoring/Mentoring Conference to that may be held here at DePaul on November 11 and 12, 2010. Details for this project will be worked on during the quarter and you will receive a separate assignment sheet for this project.

**Due Dates:**

**Readings:** The weekly readings will be posted on the course Blackboard sites under “Course Documents.”

**Written Assignments:** You will be posting your narratives on the internet during class. Therefore, it is absolutely mandatory that you come to class prepared, having read the assignments, taken notes and drawn conclusions.

**Final Project:** TBA