
University High School

1999-2000

School Improvement Plan

University High School
School Improvement Goals FY00

1. Strengthen university / lab school partnerships.

Meet w/ department heads of all secondary programs on campus
(Administration)

Encourage shared faculty exchanges among lab schools and ISU departments.
(COE / Faculty / Administration)

Define administrative support necessary for faculty research and service.
(Faculty / Administration)

Describe and publicize current faculty research and service projects.
(Faculty / Department Chairs)

2. Document improvements in student performance.

Define what measures departments use/should use to document progress toward K-12 benchmarks. Document how these measures align with state and national learning standards.

(Department Chairs / Administration)

Examine ways to collect comparative assessment data, local, state, and national norms. Begin implementation of statewide testing effective FY2001.

(Counseling/Administration)

Document how curriculum renewal activities use student performance data to inform instructional practice.

(K-12 Curriculum Renewal Committee)

3. Strengthen family / school partnerships.

Establish a school improvement team of parents, students, U-H and ISU faculty
(Keystone / Administration)

Survey parents / students / faculty / staff on school safety concerns
(CAC / Booster Club)

Update and create web pages for student/ parent/ faculty access

(Tech support: Kurz, Baldwin, Frankeberger, Marshall, Petty, Smith)

4. Strengthen curriculum and instruction.

Review graduation requirements / final exam schedule / six course load.
(Keystone / Administration)

Review data from eligibility list and revisit eligibility requirements.
(Faculty / Department Chairs / Administration)

Encourage creative ways to use technology in instruction.
(Tech support team / Faculty)

Consider scheduling alternatives that encourage collegial support and mentoring.
(Faculty / Counseling)

Field test revised professional development plan.
(Keystone/Administration)

School Improvement Plan 1999-2000

#1 Strengthen university/lab school partnerships

a. Meet with department heads of all secondary programs on campus.

b. Encourage shared faculty exchanges among lab schools and ISU departments.

Academic Round table-November: Dr. McBride described student internship program.

Counseling: Worked with ISU Provost, Deans, and Office of Admissions to arrange department visits and campus tours for 93 U-High students on Teen Institute Day (March 2, 2000).
Worked with Molly Arnold, ISU Office of Admissions, for "Get Set for College Night" for parents of juniors on March 9, 2000.
Learning Center works with ISU departments and usually 100 ISU college students to tutor approximately 50 to 60 U-High students daily in a wide range of subjects.

Foreign Language: Linked with ISU for 4th year Spanish and French classes.

Library: Kathy Oberhart participated in a work group task force by Dean Pancrazio and Dean Cheryl Elzy-Milner Library, to study the need for reactivation of the School Library Certification and Endorsement program at ISU.
Kathy, Marc and administration worked with Facilities Planning, Milner Library, and the architects to design a more efficient and useable space for students, teachers, and library staff.

Math: Carol Benson participates ¼ FTE in the ISU Math Department.
Review certification assessment exams as related to the Illinois teaching standards.
Supported the Math 324 pilot project by making our classes available for videotaping and practice teaching.

Science: Tom Holbrook's AP Chemistry class meets in the ISU new Science Building every Wed evening.
Roger Baldwin and Janice Ives presented for Expanding Your Horizons in March.

Social Sciences: Department met with Jim Kurz to explore Mallard possibilities/applications.
Presentation for ISU History Drive-in Conference on Performance Standards.
Presentation for AHA Teacher Advisory Council.
Presentation at Regional Lab School Association by Jim Kinsella and Phil Pulley.
Peggy Scott attended Spring Conference ISU History Department.
Supervised internships with ISU History 290 students both semesters.
Guest of Teacher Advisory Committee ISU History Dept. at the AHA annual meeting.

Special Ed: Developing feedback forms for ISU students.
Working with SED faculty on pilot programs.
Supervise SED students in volunteer assignments and JP assignments.

English: Kathy Clesson: Appointed to serve on the university wide Performance Based Assessment Task Force for teacher education
Bob Neuleib: Member Planning Committee, Blackfriars' Reunion, ISU, Homecoming, 1999.
Sandra Long-Remmers: Coordinated with Milner Library for training of freshmen and on-site research
Bob Neuleib: Member, College of Education, Scholarship and Awards Committee, Illinois State University, 1998-2000.
Sandra Long-Remmers: Coordinated with English methods class in restructuring Romeo and Juliet unit

Bob Neuleib & Kathy Clesson: Served on HISED (Heads of Illinois Secondary English Departments) Conference Planning Committee, ISU, 10/8/00.

John Kline, Suzi Thetard & Kathy Clesson: Volunteered to mentor History dept. interns in conjunction with Social Sciences dept. Feb.-April, 2000.

Kathy Clesson: Served as vice chair of College Council

Suzie Thetard: Illinois Theatre Festival Committee – joint ISU, U of I, and American Theatre Association, 1/7/00

Suzie Thetard: Held open session with ISU alum/actress Judith Ivey, 2/17/00

Suzie Thetard, Kathy Clesson and Pat Marshall: Presented and mentored at Springfield NBPTS workshop, 2/18/00

Kathy Clesson mentored at Springfield NBPTS workshop, 5/12/00

Suzie Thetard, Kathy Clesson and Pat Marshall: Attended Milken Education Leadership conference, 2/25 & 26, 2000.

Suzie Thetard, Kathy Clesson and Pat Marshall: Presented at AACTE “NBPTS Cohorts,” 2/26 & 27, 2000.

Suzie Thetard: Co-Chair of play selection committee for 2001 High School Theatre Festival

Suzie Thetard and Kathy Clesson presented “Madness and Mentoring: What Universities Can Do to Help Candidates Survive NBPTS Certification” at NALS, March 1, 2000.

Diane Walker, Kathy Clesson, Peggy Scott, Mary Ann and John Boyd: Presented on professional development plan on “Reflective Teaching” at NALS, March 4, 2000.

Kathy Clesson, Pat Marshall and Suzie Thetard: Accepted as a professional development provider for Summer Bridges program sponsored by the State Board of Education. This program includes three Saturdays of training.

Suzie Thetard: Coordinates with the Theatre Department for THE 285/385

Bob Neuleib: Works with Communication Education and Communication Majors in the oral communication classes. (Evaluation of speeches)

Kathy Clesson: Instructor, C&I 215, Spring 2000.

Kathy Clesson: Serves on Curriculum Renewal steering committee

English Department : Set a goal in November, 1999 to more actively pursue dialogue with the English Methods instructors; Claire LaMonica is pursuing the connection for fall 2000

Kathy Clesson: Member of the four-person COE team promoting and supporting National Board Certification

John Kline: Piloted an intern program in collaboration with ISU & UHS Social Sciences department.

John Kline: Developed guidelines and rubrics for use with 216 students and shared them with both other UHS and C&I faculty; a new evaluation sheet resulted

Suzi Thetard and Kathy Clesson attended and presented at ISU’s NBPTS spring conference at Bone, May 10, 2000

Kathy Clesson, Suzie Thetard, and Diane Walker presented: “Using Rubrics to Assess Assignments” at U-High teacher in-service on Oct. 8, 1999.

Hosted two inservice sessions in Stroud with guest alum/broadway actor Ray Roderick, Oct. 8, 2000.

Bob Neuleib: Directed Illinois High School Association State Debate Tournament Homewood-Flossmoor H.S. in March, 2000.

Bob Neuleib: Directed Greater Illinois National Forensic League District Student Congress, ISU, March 2000.

c. Define administrative support necessary for faculty research and service.

d. Describe and publicize current faculty research and service projects.

Counseling: Worked with Dan Florell, Arizona State University, on his research proposal.
Coordinate ISU and U-High research proposals.
Conducting research with Dr. Denise Freese Creasey at Metcalf on Spanish and French instruction.
Sandy Brown submitted three curriculum and career-related grant proposals that were funded by Education-to-Careers. Faculty in Special Education, Social Studies, and Business are leading the research.

Science: Received \$2,500 Science Literacy Grant to purchase a digital camera, software, and associated hardware for the Quizdom teaching package.

Social Sciences: Illinois History Teacher Article with Dr. Mildred Pratt.
Research on intern program with History 290 students.
Submitted and received a \$12,500 Museum in the Classroom Grant from ISBE.
Additional \$11,000 offered for Museum in the Classroom to train two more teachers.
Peggy Scott received, with counseling, a \$750 grant to study correlations between student employment, attendance, and grades.
Article by Peggy Scott with Dr. Mildred Pratt published in the Illinois History Teacher, Jan. 2000.

English: Pat Marshall: Helped write grant proposal for Illinois Professional Learners' Partnership Institute; proposal for \$74,000 was accepted. 3/10/00.
Kathy Clesson worked with Honor Student Jade Lambert for a 130-hour service project resulting in the event called "Sweet Sounds of Spring" and the celebration of National Poetry Month
Sandra Long-Remmers: Volunteered for Real World Consumer Ec Project
Pat Marshall: Presented, "Teaming," HISED, ISU, 4/14/00.
Diane Walker, Kathy Clesson, Suzi Thetard, John Kline and Pat Marshall: Presented, "Methods for Teaching Classical Literature Roundtable." HISED, ISU, 4/14/00.
Kathy Clesson: Presented Student Designed and Directed WebPages for HISED, ISU, 4/14/00
Pat Marshall: Interviewed as one of twelve finalists for the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship, Springfield - awarded a cash prize, 4/26/00
Sandra Long-Remmers: Sponsored social work tour for Teen Institute Day
Pat Marshall: Submitted a study skills proposal for the "Unsung Heroes Award." 4/29/00
Kathy Clesson wrote two proposals for Fall NCTE Conference in Milwaukee (both accepted)
Pat Marshall, Kathy Clesson and Suzie Thetard: Attended Governor's State of the State Address and reception for National Board Certified Teachers. 2/2/00
Pat Marshall: Presented "Students as Ambassadors," at the National Future Educators' Association conference in Florida, 2/11-2/14, 2000.
Bob Neuleib: Delegate for Illinois and Illinois High School Association, National Federation of State High School Associations' National Debate Topic Selection Meeting, Alexandria, VA, 8/6-8/8, 1999.
Kathy Clesson (and Claire Lamonica) presented a writing workshop at Barnes and Nobel for area students interested in participating in the Mercury Independent Thinker Book Series essay contest.
Suzi Thetard and Kathy Clesson sponsored 41 students to compete in the Mercury-Sable Ind. Thinkers essay contest
Bob Neuleib: Presented, "Analyzing Student and Teacher Performances," Illinois Speech and Theater Association Convention, Peoria, 10/15, 1999.
Bob Neuleib and Diane Walker: Presented, "G.I.F.T.S." (Great Ideas for Teaching Speech) HISED (Heads of Illinois Secondary English Departments) ISU, 4/14/00.
Bob Neuleib: Presented, "Read a Film," HISED, ISU, 4/14/00.

Bob Neuleib: Accepted for Presentation, "Resources and Support for Novice Speech and Debate Coaches, National Federation of State High School Associations' Summer Meeting, Minneapolis, 7/6/00.

Bob Neuleib: Published, "State of Speech: Illinois" NFHS Magazine, in print.

Bob Neuleib: Awarded, Certificate of Appreciation, Quincy University, 10/99.

Kathy Clesson: Awarded Certificate of Appreciation, Kankakee High School, for three year commitment to North Central review process

Bob Neuleib: Awarded, Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 6th Edition, 2000.

Bob Neuleib: Published, "Speech: State of State Report: Illinois," NFHS (National Federation of State High School Association) *News*. Vol. 17, No. 7, April, 2000. p. 30.

John Kline: Sponsored Key Club, 1999-2000.

Diane Walker: Presented "Parenting a Special Needs Child" to the U-High Parenting class, 5/16/00.

Bob Neuleib and Diane Walker sponsored 22 students in the annual Voice of Democracy contest sponsored by the Veteran's of Foreign Wars.

Kathy Clesson and Suzi Thetard sponsored 41 students in the annual Philosophy dept. essay contest

John Kline, Kathy Clesson, Suzie Thetard, Diane Walker and Pat Marshall: Presented "Round Tables: Classics" at the Heads of Illinois State English Department Conference on April 14, 2000.

Diane Walker's "Trial of Mark Twain" activity was included in the teaching guide for *Huck Finn in Context: A Companion Guide to "Born to Trouble: Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."* PBS published this guide to accompany their four part series: *Cultureshock*. The web site of the trial activity was suggested as a tool to use in exploring the controversy on Twain's novel.

English Department : Established portfolios in which faculty can record and file record of publications and presentations.

John Kline "How to write a resume & cover letter to get an interview"; "How to interview to get the job offer," and "Medieval Warfare," : Presented twice in October, 2000 (for Putnam County Schools and for ISU classes) .

John Kline: "Writing a Successful Resume and Interviewing Successfully," Presented for Putnam County Schools, 3/21/00.

Medival Mania," Presented to students in Putnam County Schools, 4/28/00.

Kathy Clesson: Sponsors Creative Writing Club

Suzi Thetard: Sponsors Thespians

Kathy Clesson: Oversees BROME & BEYOND, annual literary and arts magazine

Bob Neuleib: Directed Congressional Debate Tournament at Rich East H.S. in Park Forest-Nov. 1999, and at Belleville East H.S. in Belleville on Oct. 1999.

Counseling: Worked with Dan Florell, Arizona State University, on his research proposal.
Coordinate ISU and U-High research proposals.
Conducting research with Dr. Denise Freese Creasey at Metcalf on Spanish and French instruction.
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#2 Document Improvements in student performance

a. Define what measures departments use/should use to document progress toward K-12 benchmarks. Document how these measures align with state and national learning standards.

Fine Arts: Music department will revisit benchmarks written two years ago

Foreign Language: Alignment with Illinois Learning standards in Spanish I, Spanish II, French II, and French III.

Math: Prepare students for the Prairie State exams.
Student participation in the state and national contests such as Amer. Math Competitions, Ill. Math League, and Ill. Council of Teachers of Math competitions.

Wellness: Will revisit benchmarks, written 2 years ago, to align with state and national standards

English: Ryan Rappa : selected as Illinois State Thespian board member
Emily Baldoni, Meghan Reynard, and Becky Skaggs placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in the Optimist Club's Essay Contest
Meghan Reynard awarded a scholarship to attend the Optimist WORLD AFFAIRS Seminar in Wisconsin summer 2000
Fifty-plus students showcased in Sweet Sounds of Spring
Kirsten Bogue, Lottie Bergstron and Natalie Reeser: shared 3rd place in Philosophy Essay Contest
Emily Baldoni and Rehan Ahmed: shared 1st place in Philosophy Essay Contest
Kellie Powell and David Nolan: Recognized as All-Sectional Cast for Group Interpretation
Illinois Theatre Festival: Play, *You Can't Take it With You* selected to perform
Kellie Powell: selected for All-State production crew
Tessa Somers, Sammi Dawson and Stephanie Reynolds won 1-2-3 in Delta Sigma Theta's African American History Essay contest
Angie Mentzer: Voice of Democracy Oratorical Contest, 1st place, school award.
Asha Baru: Voice of Democracy Oratorical Contest, 2nd place school award.
Ashish Shah: Voice of Democracy Oratorical Contest 3rd place school award.
Megan Ferguson: Voice of Democracy Oratorical Contest, 4th place school award.
Jenn Blass and Sarah Weiss won the American Legion essay contest "Patriotism – What Can I Do to Preserve It?"
Diago Baez will be published in Potato Hill Poetry and has submitted to Merlin's Pen

b. Examine ways to collect comparative assessment data, local, state, and national norms. Begin implementation of statewide testing effective FY2001.

Purchased ISAT preparation materials in social studies, English and math.

Counseling: On-going evaluation and reporting of student performance on achievement tests: ACT Explore (9th grade), ACT PLAN (10th grade), College Board PSAT (11th grade), and ACT & SAT (11th & 12th grade).

English: Created a portfolio of student achievement in language arts.
Investigating ways to best prepare for Prairie States exam (ISAT).

Social Sciences: Investigation of Mallard- negative results.

c. Document how curriculum renewal activities use student performance data to inform instructional practice.

Math: Curriculum maps generated /written as part of Math Curriculum Review Process.

Social Sciences: Presentation on performance standards- follow up with Tuscola.

Special Ed: Student Progress on IEP goals documented four times/year and reported to parents.

English: Ongoing evaluation of curriculum

The English Department will continue to update and perfect its Web Page as a means of publicizing its activities. Two faculty members worked with Jim K 22 January 2000

English Department: Investigation underway for best prep for Prairie States exam (or ISAT)

Sandra Long-Remmers: Facilitated curriculum review and extended review in May 2000

School Improvement Plan 1999-2000

#3 Strengthen family/school partnerships.

a. Establish a school improvement team of parents, students, and U-High and ISU faculty.

Counseling: Peer Mediation training workshop (November, 1999) conducted by Learning Center and attended by thirty U-High students.. Conflict resolution was the focus with training centered on peaceful resolutions to problems, responsible citizenship, and social and cultural diversity.

J.D. Hawkins spent considerable time on school contract plans and counseling for students involved in disciplinary situations, including parents of these students.

J.D. attended the "Parent to Parent" Training conference in Atlanta. He will now be training 76 couples in substance abuse issues and parenting skills through the U-High Parent Support Network.

English: Suzie Thetard: Thespian Banquet and awards night. 104 participants = 35 families
Bob Neuleib: Member, Citizens Advisory Committee, ISU Laboratory Schools, 1999-2000.

Kathy Clesson worked with FIRST team during Tolerance Unit for a cross-age teaching/learning experience with the Contemporary lit class
Department participated in the Library Alliance P.I.G.S. project with Hamlet (our pig).

Math: Pilot the Thinkwave gradebook software, providing online accerss to students and parents.
Provide leadership in Expanding Your Horizons for young women in math and science.
Maintain chapter in Mu Alpha Theta- national honorary society for H.S. math scholars.

b. Survey parents/ students/ faculty/ and staff on school safety concerns.

Established school-wide safety committee composed of teachers, administrators, ISU police and CAC parent representatives.

Counseling: J.D. and Safety committee is developing "mock" situations in an attempt to educate faculty on proper response procedures

Special Ed: Staff participated in CPR training.

c. Update and create web pages for student/ parent/ and faculty access.

Counseling: Created innovative web page.

English: Continue to update and perfect web page.

Keystone Workshop: Web page design using front page 2000 with Jim Kurz.

Math: Develop and maintain web site.

Social Sciences: Continued web-page development.
Thinkwave Program.
Helped in obtaining hardware and software for the Museum in the Classroom Project/Grant.

Special Ed: Updated web page.

Technology: Equipped the 244 lab with front page for teachers who want to develop web pages with their students. Also purchased front page in every department that has requested it. Improved web site pages in counseling areas and athletics. Connected to the Orchesis and Brome pages. Bobbi Wojcik posts daily announcements and updates of faculty/staff pages and monthly calendars. Focus to assist each department in developing their areas.

School Improvement Plan 1999-2000

#4. Strengthen curriculum and instruction.

a. Review graduation requirements/ final exam schedule/ and six course load.

Keystone: Raised graduation requirements to 24 beginning with the class of '03.

Counseling: Recommended a list of options for students who may need alternatives to 6th class requirement.

b. Review data from eligibility list and revisit eligibility requirements.

Counseling: Student Assistance Program meets weekly to share student concerns in attendance, health, behavior, and grades.

c. Encourage creative ways to use technology in instruction.

Academic Roundtable- October: T3-Teaching, Teaming, and Technology in the classroom by Roger Baldwin and Janiece Ives. March: Thinkwave by Phil Pulley.

English: Pat Marshall placed vocabulary study segment of FIRST English on web as electronic teaching experiment.
Installed large screen TV/computer monitor in room 240.
Acquired site license for Microsoft Publisher 2000 for co-curricular publishing demands.

Foreign language: Inservice by Chris Kozik to use the new large screen TV in room 219.

Keystone workshops: Using eudora for e-mail assignments-Don Petty and Using Powerpoint-Lynda Frankeberger

Library: Secured 6 online resources for use by our school community in school and at home. FIRST is teaching these databases to all freshmen.

Science: Purchased five microscopes with allocated equipment funds.
Construction plans for new Bio II lab this summer.

Social Sciences: Installation and use of a new big TV in room 203.
Thinkwave.
Museum in the Classroom grant.

Special Ed: Utilization of alternate curricular methods (books on tape, alternate test formats, adaptation of regular education materials.

Technology: Purchased and installed presentation TV's and computers in FIRST, social studies, and English. These TV's have a 36 inch screen and attach to a converter box that attaches to a new computer. May be used for the internet page showings for the entire class, powerpoint presentations, and videocassettes.
Investigating possible on-line course software for students to take tests and quizzes on-line. Also looking for upgrade of Micrograde or a different system for grading.

d. Consider scheduling alternatives that encourage collegial support and mentoring.

Counseling: Added ISU 215 students as tutors in addition to 216 students.

English: Bob Neuleib has taught a night class each semester for the department (Argumentation and Debate in the fall, and Intro to Film in the spring)
Diane Walker and Kathy Clesson collaborated on a unique final exam experience, combining the Oral Comm. and Creative Writing & Desktop Publishing classes.

Foreign Language: Mary Witherow mentored Vince Espejo during the first semester.
Pat Arnold and Mary Witherow picked up overload and discussed with Karen Sams-Davis, material covered in the switched classes.

Math: Offered interdepartmental teaming opportunities such as the 7am history /math project on technology and the census.
Experimented with team teaching in the FIRST Geometry classes.
C. Benson participated in the development of a national actuarial exam.

e. Field test revised professional development plan.

English: National board Certification in the Adolescent, Young Adult English language Arts achieved by Kathy Clesson, Pat Marshall, and Suzi Thetard.

Math: Attendance by all math dept. members at the 2000 National NCTM conference in Chicago.

Social Sciences: Presentation at NALS Regional Convention by Phil Pulley and Jim Kinsella.
Jim Kinsella was a participant in the discussion panel at Russian & Central European Conference at University of Illinois.
NALS National presentation by Peggy Scott with Kathy Clesson, Diane Walker, and John Boyd re: professional development project on reflective teaching.