

V(A). Planned Program (Summary)

Program # 8

1. Name of the Planned Program

Youth Work Institute

V(B). Program Knowledge Area(s)

1. Program Knowledge Areas and Percentage

| KA Code | Knowledge Area | %1862 Extension | %1890 Extension | %1862 Research | %1890 Research |
|---------|---|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 805 | Community Institutions, Health, and Social Services | 50% | | 80% | |
| 806 | Youth Development | 50% | | 20% | |
| | Total | 100% | | 100% | |

V(C). Planned Program (Inputs)

1. Actual amount of professional FTE/SYs expended this Program

| Year: 2010 | Extension | | Research | |
|------------|-----------|------|----------|------|
| | 1862 | 1890 | 1862 | 1890 |
| Plan | 7.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Actual | 12.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

2. Actual dollars expended in this Program (includes Carryover Funds from previous years)

| Extension | | Research | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Smith-Lever 3b & 3c | 1890 Extension | Hatch | Evans-Allen |
| 492266 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1862 Matching | 1890 Matching | 1862 Matching | 1890 Matching |
| 1859597 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1862 All Other | 1890 All Other | 1862 All Other | 1890 All Other |
| 1275775 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

V(D). Planned Program (Activity)

1. Brief description of the Activity

The Youth Work Institute has become a state and national leader that brings research on quality youth development to practice. The Institute now has eight signature educational courses that offer foundational knowledge and practical application in youth work practice. These courses were delivered statewide in 2010, and were offered

nationally and internationally online.

Quality Matters, and the Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA), incorporate research that has identified eight critical factors of positive youth experience, as well as five basic competencies that are essential to youth as they grow to adulthood. (www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/youthdevelopment/DA6699.html) Among YWI's primary successes is that Quality Matters assessments and trainings are now "hard wired" into five of Minnesota's leading organizations that fund youth development work. In 2010, the Sheltering Arms Foundation joined 4-H, the McKnight Foundation, the State Department of Education, and the United Way of the Greater Twin Cities area in weaving Quality Matters benchmarks into funding requirements and training resources. In 2010, the United Way designated significant resources to support quality improvement among its grantees. These Minnesota Institutions invest millions of dollars in youth development, and the work of YWI is improving outcomes from these investment.

Finally, as described in our 4-H program report, the YWI has integrated knowledge of good practice into 4-H program structures and training. This brings a strong research base to Extension youth development programming.

2. Brief description of the target audience

In 2010, the Youth Work Institute successfully reached its target audience of youth workers who are involved in out-of-school activities for Minnesota's youth. In the fall, the Institute distributed 7,000 catalogs offering eight courses that teach research-based programs enhance youth program quality. Moreover, the new client-driven website - developed with extensive audience profiling and user-testing in 2009 - became operational in January 2010.

The Institute constantly seeks new audiences for its research-based content and tailors programming to meet audience needs. In 2010, the Institute increased the number of contacts in its data base to 9,257, and began using social media tools to reach its audiences more effectively. Several new social media tools will be launched in 2011. In addition, YWI conducted a needs assessment to determine desire for online learning. As a result, 241 responses about technology access, comfort and preferences will inform future programming and address barriers between audiences and resources.

By influencing and improving funding guidelines and training objectives among major Minnesota funders of youth programs, the program has also helped change the culture of youth-serving organizations in Minnesota, directing attention to benchmarks of quality programming where youth learn and grow and youth workers create activities.

V(E). Planned Program (Outputs)

1. Standard output measures

| 2010 | Direct Contacts Adults | Indirect Contacts Adults | Direct Contacts Youth | Indirect Contacts Youth |
|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Plan | 4200 | 7500 | 0 | 0 |
| Actual | 3909 | 9257 | 0 | 0 |

2. Number of Patent Applications Submitted (Standard Research Output)

Patent Applications Submitted

Year: 2010
 Plan: 0
 Actual: 0

Patents listed

3. Publications (Standard General Output Measure)

Number of Peer Reviewed Publications

| 2010 | Extension | Research | Total |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Plan | 2 | 0 | |
| Actual | 4 | 0 | 4 |

V(F). State Defined Outputs

Output Target

Output #1

Output Measure

- Educational events will be delivered through public offerings and contracts with youth-serving organizations. (Target expressed as the number of events, classes, workshops, etc. offered.)

| Year | Target | Actual |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2010 | 120 | 97 |

Output #2

Output Measure

- The number of organizations participating in capacity building consultation and technical assistance will increase. (Target expressed as number of participating organizations.)

| Year | Target | Actual |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2010 | 85 | 40 |

Output #3

Output Measure

- Individuals representing diverse organizations will participate in networks and collaboratives supported by Youth Work Institute Staff. (Target expressed as number of organizations involved.)

Not reporting on this Output for this Annual Report

Output #4

Output Measure

- Educational offerings will be delivered through distance education methods. (Target expressed as the number of online offerings delivered.)

| Year | Target | Actual |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 2010 | {No Data Entered} | 10 |

V(G). State Defined Outcomes

V. State Defined Outcomes Table of Content

| O. No. | OUTCOME NAME |
|--------|---|
| 1 | Participants at public educational offerings will report that they increased their knowledge of current research and effective program practices. (Target expressed as a percentage of participants.) |
| 2 | Youth Development organizations participating in consultation and technical assistance will report that their participation increased their ability to effectively serve youth. (Target expressed as percentage of those in agreement.) |
| 3 | Youth development professionals will report that they used Youth Work Institute products and publications to strengthen their youth programs. (Targets expressed as percentage of practitioners utilizing them.) |

Outcome #1

1. Outcome Measures

Participants at public educational offerings will report that they increased their knowledge of current research and effective program practices. (Target expressed as a percentage of participants.)

2. Associated Institution Types

- 1862 Extension

3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Knowledge Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

| Year | Quantitative Target | Actual |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 2010 | 85 | 93 |

3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

Research is the backbone of effective youth development programs. It is critical that practitioners understand the latest youth development research and related best practices.

What has been done

The Youth Work Institute's offerings are grounded in latest research, and bridge that research with practical ways to apply it to daily practice.

Results

Evaluation summaries for all Youth Work Institute classes in 2010 demonstrated that 93 percent of respondents (N=740) agreed that their understanding of research related to the session topic was enhanced.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

| KA Code | Knowledge Area |
|----------------|---|
| 805 | Community Institutions, Health, and Social Services |
| 806 | Youth Development |

Outcome #2

1. Outcome Measures

Youth Development organizations participating in consultation and technical assistance will report that their participation increased their ability to effectively serve youth. (Target expressed as percentage of those in agreement.)

2. Associated Institution Types

- 1862 Extension

3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Action Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

| Year | Quantitative Target | Actual |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 2010 | 80 | 98 |

3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

Professional development opportunities need to go beyond increasing knowledge and building skills. Participants need to transfer and apply new knowledge and skills into practice. This requires sufficient time, support and resources to master and integrate new content and skills.

What has been done

The Youth Work Institute provides professional opportunities that describe research and provide practical ways to apply it to daily practice. From tool kits to learning circles; from workshops to dialogues, the Youth Work Institute provides useful information and resources for those who work with and on behalf of young people.

Results

Evaluation summaries for all Youth Work Institute classes in 2010 showed that 98% of respondents (N=703) agreed that they will be able to apply what they learned to their work.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

| KA Code | Knowledge Area |
|----------------|---|
| 805 | Community Institutions, Health, and Social Services |
| 806 | Youth Development |

Outcome #3

1. Outcome Measures

Youth development professionals will report that they used Youth Work Institute products and publications to strengthen their youth programs. (Targets expressed as percentage of practitioners utilizing them.)

Not Reporting on this Outcome Measure

V(H). Planned Program (External Factors)

External factors which affected outcomes

- Other (Evaluation-driven programmatic changes)

Brief Explanation

Shifts were made in program delivery plans in 2009 and 2010 in response to vigorous stakeholder needs assessment, as well as modernization of program delivery tools. As a result, some output and outcome measures were changed to correspond to actual program delivery methods. Outputs and outcomes will be changed in future plans of work. This year, it resulted in lower outputs because of a change in what was being counted.

V(I). Planned Program (Evaluation Studies and Data Collection)

1. Evaluation Studies Planned

- During (during program)

Evaluation Results

Using the core Quality Matters design, YWI is taking national leadership to improve the quality of work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Arizona. This work includes: 1) a research study on how youth and adult volunteers assess and drive quality improvement in 4-H clubs; 2) issue briefs on research findings and articles on current status of program quality assessment tools across three sectors (early childhood, out-of-school time and family involvement); 3) source material for a national database on evaluation tools and resources for practitioners; and, 4) hosting a national conversation focused on evaluation in youth program for national thought leaders on December 2-3.

As a result of the research study, 40 youth and adult volunteers are now trained to assess quality using the Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) tool in 4-H clubs in Minnesota. Forty 4-H clubs have also been observed and are completing action plans for improvement with the YPQA data. The adoption of the YPQA as the Minnesota 4-H assessment tool occurred so quickly that staff created *Quality on a Stick* to create awareness at the Minnesota State Fair. In this effort, a modified version of YPQA allowed youth to observe

judges at the Minnesota State Fair competitive events in 2010, considering whether judges were helping to create a positive youth development experience at the fair. Knowing that 12,000 youth are involved in fair competitions each year, the potential to improve programming experiences is high.

Key Items of Evaluation

In Minnesota, the Youth Work Institute is influencing the entire field of youth development by integrating Youth Program Quality Assessment into programs. This assessment helps programs measure whether they exhibit the characteristics that are known to make a difference in youth outcomes. This assessment tool is influencing millions of dollars of investment in youth programming in Minnesota, including the investment of NIFA in 4-H programming.