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NETWORK NEWS

FOR THE SCHOOLS OF BIG PICTURE LEARNING

Buccaneer Jr./Sr. High School students doing their
Maple Sugaring Entrepreneurship Endeavor



BIG BANG RETURNS TO PROVIDENCE



BIG PICTURE LEARNING DEPTH OVER BREADTH
BIG BANG 12 PROVIDENCE 2013

AUGUST 7, 8 & 9, 2013

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION AVAILABLE NOW

<http://www.bigpicture.org/2013/03/big-bang-2013/>



Join us this summer for BPL's own unique blend of professional development, training, and culture-building. This year, Big Bang 12 will be hosted at The Met Center in Providence, RI which provides participants with an authentic in-school experience. Learn more about the BPL design principles; hear about our new innovations including building on non-academic competencies, entrepreneurship and exploring how deeper learning prepares students for college & career. Big Bang is a valuable foundational experience for those opening new schools in the Fall 2013, a learning opportunity for those interested in incorporating the BPL's dynamic design into their current work, and a great opportunity for those educators new to the BPL network who want to learn more.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Creative uses of technology in the classroom
- Innovative Workshops for new teachers
- Establishing a Quality Internship & Real World Learning program for your students.
- Project Based Learning connected to the work-force
- Designing a successful and deep advisory model
- Leadership development themed workshops
- Successful and creative strategies for helping struggling readers
- Effective methods for collecting and using Data
- Common Core in a Big Picture Learning School
- STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts & Math) themed workshops
- Elements of Quality Performance Assessments and Exhibitions

DR. STEVE PERRY KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Big Picture Learning is pleased to announce that reknowned educator and author **DR. STEVE PERRY** will be our featured keynote speaker for the Big Bang 12 Conference. Dr. Perry is the CNN Education Contributor and Essence Best Selling author, with his book "Man Up! Nobody is Coming to Save Us". He is a nationally sought after

speaker appearing on over 200 radio and television stations in the past three years. He has also been a regular contributor on issues of education for CNN, MSNBC, and Fox. Dr. Perry is also on a national college tour where he discusses issues ranging from personal responsibility to educational reform.

Co-Corner: D to the E



FROM DENNIS

Last Friday night, I went to Manchester, NH for my honorary doctorate on Saturday. I had dinner with two College Unbound Providence graduates from 2012. They both have jobs at SNHU and are teaching college courses. It is very exciting to see people grow up.

The award ceremony Saturday morning was very nice. They asked me to keep on my kufi, instead of the fluffy black hat- they even hung a tassel from it! There were 1,500 graduates and 10,000 parents, and it lasted for 3 hours on stage. However, I took the time to talk to the other honorary doctorate guy, a well-known sports writer and TV sports personality.

For those of you who don't know, I know a lot about sports- never changed in this area since I was 8 years old. So I get to ask him all the inside questions that only he and a few others know. For you sports people:

I asked about Michael Jordan's bad results as an NBA owner. He said Mike is lazy- thinks he can do it with no time.

I asked about Rondo. He said he's a very selfish assist man, and that he always looks at his own stats at half time.

I asked about Larry Bird. He said that he is smart/ straightforward, but he's still a man from French Lick and it's important that he fits in in his town.

The questions and stories went on and on. He also covered 11 Olympics.

Monday, we went to schools to talk about the college/Met competency program. Applications are due on Friday, the 24th.

We had the last class of the year for College Unbound and evaluations. Educationally, it was an amazing year. Politically, it was a horrible year. Sixteen adult learners will be graduating Friday night at our gym, some in one year, others in two. Then Saturday, they will go through the official graduation at Roger Williams University.

On Tuesday evening, I zoomed off to DC to help an online college/company Laurette (Walden College in the US and 50 colleges in Brazil) around new competency-based curriculum. Of course, our presentation started with the student, about real work, etc.

It was a long day, and I flew home late to an early Met board meeting. We have three new members: a just relieved CCRI VP, the chief of staff to the new president at URI (and parent to a kid in East Bay), and the director of Alex and Ani's International Business. All fun!

Friday: CU graduation- yeah! Then off to Indianapolis to meet with Ali Jafari, who designed a new networking program (Course Networking) that we have been using in College Unbound. It has a simple fallback way of working, and allowed our students to post and respond to each other about our assignments. We will also be making a presentation about our work.

FROM ELLIOTT

"We really teach ourselves. If we want to learn, we will always find someone to learn from, be they dead or alive, great or unknown. We learn from everything we see and hear around us - if we are willing to pay attention." ~ Alexander Volkov – From Ron Hazelton's website

This week we had a strategic launch of the newest animation we produced for Leaving To Learn. We did not know what to expect but after 72 hours we had 13,000 hits on YouTube. It will be interesting to see if it will go anywhere near viral and what it will mean for our work. Next week Charlie and I will be in Washington, DC doing a webinar on Leaving To Learn. At this time, we will also show the animation. Thus far, it has been a blast to hear responses to the book. Everywhere I go someone is telling me they read it and are using it in a variety of ways that range from citing it in their dissertation to using it in their classrooms with their students. We have had little if any negative comments. As other authors have told us, the only thing to do is to keep on promoting the book. It all takes time.

The last two days I have been with Andrew at Harvard where we met with his Education Leadership cohort and their mentors. I met lots of great people and got caught up on what some of the best organizations and districts in the country are doing. The best things about programs like the Ed Leader Program that Andrew is in is not what is done for classwork or research projects. The best things happening are in the informal learning settings where people work, share, practice, and develop new ideas and relationships. Unfortunately, there is little research being done on the value of informal learning.

Before going to Harvard, I spent a day at MUSE. This year things have come a long way. Their staff has gelled. Their programs like G-STEAM and PCM are developing and they are on the right pathways to becoming a school with unique programs and something to really offer students and the rest of the world.



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Addison's journey from internship to university



Addison, a student from Launceston City Campus, is the first person in his family to go to university. He is also one of the first Big Picture students to use evidence of internships to get to university. It's a question many people ask: How can you use an internship to get into university? Here's an answer in this great video story.

Internship

The internship is central to the success of Addison's Big Picture experience. Like many young people, Addison was unsure of his future and uninspired by school. The advisory teachers at Launceston City Campus helped Addison find his passion so that he could connect with learning.

He was interested in art and tattooing. It was a start. Then they helped him find a mentor and a place to learn deeply. The art gallery at the university wanted to reach out to the community just as Addison wanted to reach in. The power of a good internship began. His mentor, like many adults in the community, was only too pleased to help.

University Entry

The internship was exhilarating and successful and Addison wanted to go further. But how? He had found his passion and needed some more learning. The traditional path is to do well in final exams and go to university. He tells us that doing exams is not his strength. The Launceston City Campus advisors helped him find another way. They helped him assemble evidence of his learning in a powerful portfolio. The university could see the learning and the commitment and granted Addison entry.

Now, Addison is following his passion. He is at university.



To view Addison's video:

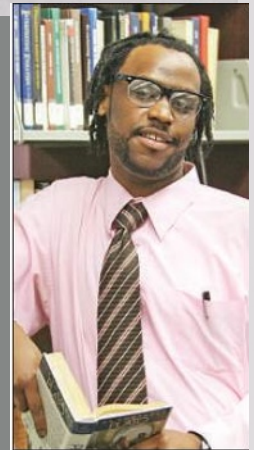
<http://www.bigpicture.org.au/addison%E2%80%99s-journey-internship-university>

Armando Ortiz, Highline Big Picture High School 2013 - Princeton Prize - Seattle Presentation - Symposium on Race



To view Armando's video: <http://youtu.be/YkQzDZBZw2E>

South Side success story



PROVIDENCE — Juan Cameron was 17 when his father asked him where he thought he'd be in 10 years. Cameron said he'd be dead. He was growing up in the Lockwood neighborhood in Upper South Providence and already living the street life. At 17, he sold drugs and was sent to the Training School. At 19, he was injured in a drive-by shooting. At 20, just a month before graduating from the Met School, he was arrested for possessing crack cocaine and marijuana.

While he sat in a holding cell after that arrest, Cameron realized where his life was heading. "I was scared that my future was going to be this, and nothing more," the 27-year-old man says now. He remembered thinking: "I don't want to be a part of this." He knew it was up to him to change.

To read complete article click on link below

<http://ireader.olivesoftware.com/Olive/iReader/ProvidenceJournalWithAuth/SharedArticle.ashx?document=TPJ%5C2013%5C05%5C18&article=Ar00106>

Job Postings



The Met, founded by the non-profit Big Picture Learning, began in 1996 as a groundbreaking new school with a student-teacher ratio of 16:1, high standards and strong family engagement. Now entering our 16th year, the Met has expanded to a network of six small high schools throughout the state of Rhode Island. The Met empowers its students to take charge of their learning, become responsible citizens and life-long learners. Met milestones include internships, individual learning plans, advisories and a breakthrough college transition program.

ADVISOR: Brief Description

Advisor duties:

- Facilitate quarterly learning plan meetings with each student and their family
- Implement, by instruction and action, the BPL philosophy of education
- Forecast the educational needs of each student based on their interests and abilities
- Identify learning opportunities and internships for students
- Facilitate internship searches through phone calls, shadow days and informational interviews to ensure that each student has an internship
- Monitor student internships through site-visits (bi-weekly), phone calls (weekly) and mentor meetings (monthly)
- Report on each student's educational and social progress in detail through quarterly narratives, phone calls to parents and weekly student meetings
- Run at least two sessions with advisory per day on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
- Attend weekly staff meetings, monthly retreats and yearly training sessions
- Facilitate additional educational and health services for each advisee as needed
- Mediate student conflict
- Maintain complete and factual records (transcripts) on each student as required by school and law
- Work with staff on strategies for grade levels, school and network
- Make provisions to be available to students and parents for education-related reasons outside of the school day when necessary

Required Skills and Experience:

- Basic knowledge of all teaching subjects and a specialty in a specific area
- Basic knowledge of pedagogical theories, perspectives and developments within education
- Basic classroom management skills
- Oral and verbal communication skills

Desired Skills and Experience:

- Bachelors Degree, Masters Degree preferred
- Appropriate State or Rhode Island Teaching Certificate(s)- Secondary Level
- Excellent problem-solving skills
- Organizational skills, multi-tasking abilities
- Ability to demonstrate competency in other content areas beyond certification content, particularly in Math, Science and Literacy.
- Resiliency, ability to improvise and work through uncertainties
- A sense of humor

EOE

How to apply

Please send your cover letter, resume and a copy of certification to: Casey Jo Dufresne, The Met School, 325 Public Street, Providence, RI 02905, (401) 752- 3448 fax, or email cadufresne@metmail.org

Job Postings

Advisors (Big Picture)

Blanche Kelso Bruce in Detroit, MI is currently seeking full time advisors in all subject matters.

Job Goal:

- To create a learning plan which encompasses the students passions and also stands as an educationally sound document
- To create a safe and trusting environment where students are allowed to grow and work through daily issues
- To facilitate student comprehension and application of concepts
- To facilitate skills and behaviors that contribute positively to society
- Assess student abilities as it relate to their desired educational goals and objectives
- Assess student learning exhibitions four times per year
- Modifies learning plans when new goals are identified
- Facilitate four learning plan meetings with student's family

Qualifications:

- Bachelors Degree in the area of instructional responsibility required
- Current Michigan State Department of Education Teaching Certification in the area of instruction
- Willingness to work within a non-traditional school schedule and organizational structure that meet the needs of over-age and under credited youth
- Strong classroom, management skills

If you are interested in working with urban students in diverse settings and want to ensure student achievements while creating a safe and orderly learning environment that facilitates positive behavior and learning then send your resume and cover letter to:

resumes@evans-solutions.net or Fax :(313) 568-6116 or

Evans Solutions
8045 Second Ave
Detroit, MI 48202
Attn: HR