

Southside High School

Portfolio

Partnership Development

April 28, 2004

I. Evaluation of Current Partnerships

A. Business Partnerships

- 1. General Electric** – Our ongoing partnership with General Electric has provided tutors for SHS for several years (from the GE Gas Turbine Plant on Garlington Rd). In addition, GE has awarded SHS three grants totaling \$600,000.00. The purpose of the grant is to increase the percentage of entering freshmen who successfully complete their freshman year on the first attempt and ultimately enter post secondary education. To accomplish this, the grant funds: a week-long Freshman Success Camp, one-day academies for the upper classes, the upgrading of current computer labs, Read 180, Fast Forward, and the creation of several mini-labs to provide easier/more access for students before and after school. They have also provided ten classroom sets of TI-83+ calculators for the math department to prepare students for the end-of- course state Algebra I exam, and other materials for use in the classrooms to improve student achievement and encourage students to consider post secondary education.
- 2. Michelin North America** – Southside students participate in a FIRST robotics competition every year as members of a team sponsored by Michelin. The competition includes an animation contest which gives Southside about \$4,000 of free animation software every year. In 2002 Southside was given one of the retired competition robots to use as an educational tool. During the 1997-98 school year, Michelin contributed \$25,000 toward our foreign language laboratory. This lab benefits our foreign language and ESL students and is used for special testing purposes.
- 3. The Cryovac-Sealed Air Corporation** - Cryovac has been very helpful to our Forensics Program here at Southside. They have helped defray the tremendous costs involved in having our students compete locally, statewide and nationally. The transportation costs alone were more than six thousand dollars during the 2002-3 school year. Without the corporate help our students simply would not be able to have these learning opportunities.
- 4. The J H M Hotels** - J H M Hotels has generously subsidized lodging expenses for Forensics Team members as we have traveled all over the United States. This has enabled us to compete in many contests that we could not have considered without this help. Their support is invaluable to us.

5. **Jacobs Engineering** - Jacobs Engineering has helpfully donated materials and supplies to the Forensics Program. With budget crunches, it means a lot to us to have adequate supplies at our disposal.
6. **Anonymous Sponsors** - There are many corporate sponsors who assist us here at Southside each year. Some prefer to remain anonymous. We will, of course, respect their wishes but it is a fact that without this support our programs could not possibly be as successful as they are. We are very appreciative of this assistance.
7. **Student Employees** - Based on a 2002-2003 survey, 61% of all SHS students have jobs and work an average of 21 hours a week. The breakdown of work hours is as follows: 34 % of 9th grade students work an average of 14 hours a week; 35 % of 10th grade students work an average of 19 hours a week; 76 % of 11th graders work an average of 22 hours a week; and 73 % of 12th grade students work 22 hours a week.

B. Parental Partnerships

1. **PTSA** – Currently, some parents are manning the school's store in the mornings and lunchtimes. Some of the money is used for medical treatment and tuition for summer school for underprivileged students. Some money is used for classroom grants for teachers. This is the major source of money for the PTSA, which in turn distributes it to Southside programs, as needed. We hold at least eight PTSA meetings each school year, including an Open House night. PTSA parents also help with coaching and chaperoning Forensics tournaments. PTSA parents serve as hall monitors during standardized testing and as room monitors for AP/IB testing. Parents also serve on SACS committees and as hosts for the After Prom Party.
2. **School Improvement Council** - This group, consisting of community leaders, parents, retirees, and teachers, was created to support Southside. Among its activities, the SIC contacted county officials to get a walkway made safe and clean for our students to walk to and from school. The SIC also provided a dinner in March, 2003 for parents, community members, and teachers at which our first three School Portfolio reports were presented.
3. Southside Booster Clubs
 - a. **IB Parents Council** - This support group provides grants for classroom teachers, coordinates Retreat for Sophomores, hosts the Senior Celebration for IB seniors, and solicits private businesses for donations for IB programs.
 - b. **Sports Booster Club** - Our Sports Boosters man concessions stands, take tickets, and sell Southside items in order to support our athletic programs.

- c. **Forensics Booster Club** - This club provides coaching, judging, bookkeeping, fundraising, and moral support for our Forensics Team and coach.
- d. **Band Booster Club** - Parents of band members assist with fundraisers and transportation.
- e. **Alumni Association** – Provides support for many Southside activities including the web page.

C. **Community Partnerships**

1. **The Urban League of the Upstate, Inc.** - The Urban League of the Upstate's Pre-College Enrollment Program is designed to help students with the college process by providing SAT applications, fee waivers, SAT workshops, financial aid, scholarship assistance, college tours, financial aid workshops, and college admission applications. The Urban League also sponsors the Teen Connection Program. This program offers activities focused on family values and their impact on pregnancy prevention, human sexuality and development, postponement of sexual activity as responsible decision-making, contraception, and decision-making skills related to family planning. The criteria for involvement in the Teen Connection Program are: students must be currently enrolled in school, must be between the ages of 8-19, and must be Medicaid recipients.
2. **The African American Forum** – The African American Forum has sponsored a tutoring and mentoring program at Southside for several years. The organization was instrumental in procuring our \$600,000.00 General Electric grants by sponsoring our application to the GE Fund.
3. **The Piedmont Chapter of the Alliance Française** - The National Alliance Française sponsors an annual essay contest. The Piedmont Chapter of the Alliance Française comes to Southside each year to administer it. In the 2001- 2002 school year, two Southside students, Christina Thompson and Jasmin Urban, were 1st place national winners in their respective divisions. The Piedmont Chapter of the Alliance Française also provides volunteers each year to administer the Grand Concours (The National French Contest), and members regularly volunteer to tutor Southside students or to provide extra conversation practice.
4. **International Center of the Upstate** - The International Center of the Upstate calls upon Southside student volunteers to assist at various community events, such as the annual Greek Festival. Many of our Southside International Baccalaureate and English as a Second Language families have ties to the ICU. Some of our Filipino students participate in the annual fall Filipino Festival. Volunteers often present workshops for classes and help with our annual International Festival.
5. **The Phillis Wheatley Center** - The Phillis Wheatley Center provides a place for SHS and other area students to do homework where they have access to computers.

It also offers various classes, such as drama and chess, taught by student and community volunteers. Many SHS students serve as volunteers; others go there to study or take lessons. This year's service learning class organized two parties at Phillis Wheatley: one was for pre-schoolers in November, 2003. The other was for 9-15 year-olds in January, 2004.

6. **National Guard** – The National Guard sponsors an Open House each year for SHS students to visit the National Guard Armory. The organization also provides guest speakers twice during the year for ROTC , and hosts a luncheon for Southside teachers the first week of school.
7. **The Greenville County Museum of Art** – Several Southside teachers have participated in the museum's annual summer art institute for educators. As a result, Southside students have been enjoying enriching field trips to the museum in their French and German classes. Curator, Martha Severens, has worked closely with our students on these tours and has shared art slides with our teachers. Some of our students serve as volunteer docents at the museum.
8. **Student Volunteers** - Southside students volunteer at numerous other community establishments and organizations, including: Baker's Chapel Elementary, Blythe Elementary, Buena Vista Elementary School, Greenville Elementary, Greenville Tech Child Center, Grove Elementary, Hillcrest Middle School, Sara Collins Elementary School, Tryon (NC) Elementary School, Welcome Elementary, The American Red Cross, Greenville Memorial Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, The Greenville Literacy Association, Teen Reach Ministry, Eastside Crisis Center, Rage Against the Haze, the YMCA, Senior Action, La Brava Radio Station, Sidekicks/ Big Brother Program, Greenville LAN Club, and many area churches.

D. Higher Education Partnerships

1. **Greenville Technical College** - Each year we have students who go to Tech and receive credit during the school year and in the summer. The Jump Start program awards dual high school and college credit. Our career center also has classes that offer students dual credit at Greenville Tech. Greenville Tech sponsors a career fair each spring for all sophomores at our school. In addition, Greenville Tech comes to Southside each year to administer its placement test to over 25 students so they are placed correctly in the college transfer program. We use Greenville Technical College's Teacher Cadet program to train future teachers; these students also receive dual credit.
2. **Furman University** - We have guest speakers from Furman in social studies, art, foreign language, and science classes. Our students have participated in computer science programming contests at Furman and our International Baccalaureate students regularly use the Furman library for extended essay research. In addition, Furman has helped gather information for a grant to fund the Riley Institute of Government. Our Social Studies Department will be participating in the Riley

Institute. Finally, Furman has graciously hosted many SHS events, including the annual IB Senior Celebration and various fundraisers, such as the Emile Pandolfi concert.

- 3. Bob Jones University** - We have several Bob Jones education majors who come to Southside each year as student teachers. In addition, Southside classes take field trips to Bob Jones University to view the outstanding collection of religious art housed there.
- 4. Clemson University** – Clemson’s Emerging Scholars Program supports our rising 10th graders. This year Clemson underwrote a workshop on 7 Habits of Highly Successful Teens for Hispanic students. Our students participate in Clemson’s annual foreign language Declamation Contest, Model UN events, and computer science programming contests.

II. Progress on the Action Plan for 2003-2004

A. Business Partnerships

- 1.** Establish lines of communication with major employers of Southside students - We have not made progress on this goal.
- 2.** Form radio station partnerships – Efforts of Gloria Hackenberg have been very effective in getting information out to the community through radio stations, La Brava and La Poderosa. They have cooperated with the school throughout the year and have been a valuable asset to the Hispanic parents and students and the school personnel. We need to work as well with the local English stations. Also thanks to Gloria Hackenberg, we have established a strong partnership with local Hispanic newspapers. Both the *La Opinion* and *Latino* papers have been fully cooperative in disseminating information during this year. They both covered the International Festival and published many pictures of the event. These newspapers also interview our seniors and cover the graduation events. The community was kept well informed during the Town Meetings with the School District and the general public. Our workshop for Hispanic students on 7 Habits of highly effective teens were published by both papers. The soccer team was interviewed by the reporter from La Opinion. Many pictures of the students were published.
- 3. Continue our partnership with GE** – We have strengthened our partnership with General Electric and received an additional grant of \$100,000. The GE tutor program and the GE grant projects are ongoing.

B. Parental Partnerships

- 1. Plight for Parental Involvement** - The goal of this mission is to increase parental support and involvement within Southside. Attendance has improved somewhat for PTSA meetings this year. Jan Janarella, our 9th grade counselor, personally called all parents to invite them to Open House in the fall. In addition, PTSA meetings have

been used as a showcase for student performances, which has enticed more parents to attend. The service learning class has worked to contact local churches to announce Open House and other school meetings in a timely fashion. We have just completed a survey to record parental involvement and find out how Southside can better serve the needs of parents. (Copy attached.)

2. **Improve Newsletters** – We have asked the administration to designate a faculty member to make sure every department contributes news to the PTSA and IB newsletters. This goal has been difficult to meet with the increased work load this year.
3. **Implement Southside Parent Workshops** - We have offered several parent workshops on college planning. Based on the survey just completed, we will plan more, based on parental input.
4. **Improve Services for Spanish Speaking Students and Parents** - Southside has provided PTSA meetings in Spanish so that parents and students can be informed of any information concerning their students and their academic program. Also, interpretive services for parents and students have been provided for all necessary communications such as phone calls, parents conferences, registration conferences and administrative conferences. Printed information and materials have been provided in Spanish for all Spanish-speaking parents and students to ensure they feel that they are an integral part of Southside. We have provided Spanish versions of Southside Parent Workshops and added Spanish features to our web site. The Latino press has been invited to various activities, including our International Festival, our workshop on 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, and our College Fair for Hispanic students. Articles have appeared in the *Latino* and *La Opinion* newspapers.
5. **Use local churches for communication** - Local churches have been contacted by our service learning class in an effort to enlist their assistance in announcing upcoming academic testing, PTSA meetings, and various student functions. The service learning class has updated our list of area churches and contacts to facilitate this goal.
6. **Develop a Parent e-mail List** - The survey we have just conducted is a first attempt to generate a school-wide e-mail list so that we can send notification of upcoming PTSA meetings and other important events. The IB program already does this, but we would like to reach more parents.
7. **Add a parent page to the Southside web site** – This has been accomplished, thanks to the efforts of our web master, Tom Rogers. The site announces all events and provides information as well as Southside Parent Workshop materials.

C. Community Partnerships

- 1. Develop a pool of community resources** – We have generated an initial list of community resources through contacts made for the service learning class. We need to continue in this endeavor.
- 2. Identify a liaison person at each of our current community partnership locations** – We have had success with the Big Brother/ Big Sister Program, the Phillis Wheatley center, and various other organizations. We need to build on these successes.

D. Higher Education Partnerships

- 1. Generate a list of guest speakers** - We need to get input from all teachers on speakers used in classes and publish the list as a speaker pool.
- 2. Prepare students for post-secondary study/training** Our PAWS program, spear-headed by Marisha Browning, has been very successful in inspiring and preparing students to proceed to post-secondary study.
- 3. Improve University Research Contacts** - Southside uses the resources at Clemson for IB group IV and science fair projects. We also use the Furman University library for IB extended essays.
- 4. Increase Availability of Dual Credit Classes** - We were unable to follow through on our plan to offer dual credit Greenville Tech courses on our campus to targeted students because the District changed rules which would have allowed us to initiate them. In addition, the cost to students doubled.
- 5. Maintain College Web Page** – Tom Rogers has improved the existing college-related web pages at the Southside web site and has included application information.

III. Action Plan for 2004-2005

A. Business Partnerships

1. Establish a career day to bring in businesses to let students see what will be expected of them in the workplace and to present volunteer opportunities.
2. Try to find funding that will provide transportation for students who are otherwise unable to take advantage of GE tutoring.
3. Form radio station partnerships with English-speaking stations and maintain/improve those that exist with La Brava and La Poderosa.
4. Improve communication with local newspapers.

B. Parental Partnerships

1. Parental workshops – Plan workshops based on survey conducted in spring 2004 and ideas below:
 - Coach their child in using the Cornell Notetaking System.
 - Encourage child to study two hours per night.
 - Encourage child to attend school everyday.
 - Check to be sure homework is completed.
 - Establish a TV turn-off night once a week for the family.
 - Create a college-oriented culture at the school.
2. Newsletter – We must do a better job of getting information to parents from all departments.

C. Community Partnerships

1. Develop a pool of community resources.
2. Identify a liaison person at each of our current community partnership locations.

D. Higher Education Partnerships

1. Generate a list of guest speakers from local schools and universities.
2. Identify a pool of Southside graduates who are willing to speak to our students about their respective universities.

Partnership Development Team

Faculty / Staff Members: Helene Robinson, Team Leader

Steve Cooper
Gloria Hackenberg
Nancy Harper
Sharon Harrison
Jan Janarella
Tom Rogers
Jean Sanchez
Jennifer Skardon

Student Members: Cassandra Beeks

Tiffany Grimsley

Alicia Matias

Mario Muse

Community Members: Clay Brazeale, Urban League
Harriet Cunningham, PTSA President
Frank Holleman, IB parent

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Copy: Parent Survey

We are in the process of conducting our 10-year self-study for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). We would very much appreciate your input in this process and hopefully your increased involvement at Southside. We believe that it is when parents, students, teachers, administrators, and community leaders work together that students have the best chance to succeed in school and in later life.

Please take a few moments to complete this form. We would love to have your name and contact information, but if you prefer to respond anonymously, that will also be fine.

Parents Name (optional)

Address

Phone #

Email

Church (optional)

Student's Name

Grade this year (2003-2004): 9 10 11 12

Student's Programs (Circle all that apply):

Career Centers Fine Arts Center ROTC ESL
College Prep International Studies (IS) International Baccalaureate (IB)

My student will be returning to SHS next year. yes no

Workshops for Parents or Parents and Students (Check any that you would attend if we offer them at no cost.)

- _____ Parenting a teenager
- _____ Financial planning for college
- _____ Choosing a college and preparing for it (applying, researching, courses to take in HS, etc.)
- _____ Expenses to expect for the 4 years in HS
- _____ 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens
- _____ Dealing with teenage stress/depression
- _____ Dealing successfully with a learning disabled child
- _____ Helping your ADHD child
- _____ Homework strategies
- _____ School programs/opportunities to help your child

- _____ Literacy - improving your reading skills
- _____ Computer skills _____
- _____ Resume writing
- _____ Interviewing and job skills
- _____ Helping your child improve his/her reading skills
- _____ Home finances - planning/working with a family budget
- _____ AIDS, STD's, etc.
- _____ Drugs - recognizing the problem, dealing with it
- _____ Other _____

What time(s) would be most convenient for you to attend? (Circle any times that are good for you.)

- Morning- 9:00 - 10:00 (during the week)
- Afternoon- 3:30 - 4:30 (during the week)
- Evening- 5:30 - 6:30 (during the week)
- Saturday- 9:00 - 10:00 am
- 2:00 - 3:00 pm
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm
- Sunday- 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Is transportation a problem for you? yes no

Would you be more likely to come if we provide childcare? yes no

High schools, like elementary and middle schools, need parents involved in the building during the school day. **Please check** any/all of these activities with which you would be willing to help us:

- _____ answering phones
- _____ filing
- _____ making copies for teachers
- _____ keeping the marquee up-to-date
- _____ working in the PTSA/Student store
- _____ serving on committees and/or booster clubs (Please circle all that apply.)

PTSA School Improvement Council Forensics ROTC Band Athletics IB

- _____ Fundraising
- _____ Grant-writing
- _____ Chaperoning field trips
- _____ Driving bus for field trips (requires CDL license)
- _____ Chaperoning/planning (Please circle all that apply.)

After Prom Homecoming Dance Int'l Festival Spirit week Pageants Other _____

- _____ Judging for forensics tournaments
- _____ Speaking to classes Topic (career, etc.): _____

What events or activities did you help out with at SHS this year?

What events or activities did you attend at SHS this year?

Would you like more activities in which you and your child could participate together?

yes no

If yes, what type of activity?

Games Career fairs College fairs Talent show Other

What info would you like to receive from the school?

How do you perceive the learning environment at SHS? (circle one)

Excellent Very Good Good Fair Poor

When is the best time to contact you: _____

What is the best way to contact you:

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail: _____

