

ILSIME

Summer Fellowship 2005

Educational Transfer Plan

Richard Stewart

World of Work: Blogging Pilot Summary

Richard Stewart's ISSME Summer Fellowship 2005

World of Work

My Summer Fellowship with IISME has giving me many skills and ideas that can be used at school and in my classroom. The skills and ideas that were obtained were shared with other Summer Fellows and Peer Coaches through a pilot blogging format on a daily bases. A record of all of my blog will be referred to through out the school year and key ideas will be implemented. Overall, the experience was an excellent way to gain professional growth.

What I learned about working in private industry from my Summer Fellowship can be transferred to my students in my classroom. Also, by simply working outside the classroom myself, I got a different perspective of what their work lives might be like. Orientation is an important procedure at any workplace. My experience of going through workplace orientatation myself can be transferred to the classroom. We could have discussions, do reading assignments, and group activities based on what my students know and what I learned from my summer work experience. These topics could include an employer's policy regarding work hours, payroll, standards of conduct, travel policies, insurance, state mandated employment, sexual harassment, unions, health care, Workers' Compensation, teamwork, mutual trust, safety, and ending employment.

There are many services and benefits that are often provided at many workplaces that an employee can take advantage of, which can benefit their lives. We could discuss them in a classroom assignment. These services and benefits could include, for example, getting college credits where your employer pays for them, credit unions, summer internships, getting a mortgage, blood drives, and travel and other discounts.

Interpersonal skills, cultural awareness, community relations and public relations are all important aspects in many businesses and corporations. All of these topics can be covered in the classroom by using teaching techniques such as cooperative learning, reading, discussions, vocabulary building, role-playing, and writing activities. Examples of interpersonal skills to be covered could be if you don't understand instruction it's ok to ask for clarification, and it's good to get together with fellow employees during lunchtime and to participate in employees' activities such as picnics, and bike races. Cultural awareness could include having an international day where many cultures express something about their culture, for example, a song, a dance, showing clothing, or reading a poem, and having an international luncheon or dinner. Many companies celebrate occasions such as Cinco de Mayo and Freedom Day. Community and public relations is a very important aspect of any operation. How it is looked upon by the public effects the operation in many ways: the morale of employees is enhanced if they know they're benefiting the community, it helps in recruiting new employees, it helps sell a

product the employees are proud of, it helps local government and schools through taxes collected. Overall, good community relations are good for any operation. There are several ways this can be done. The company where my Summer Fellowship is for Summer 2005 has many programs. Similar programs could be adopted at other operations and they could have the same positive results as well. Grants are provided to new teachers, technology grants to schools which provide much needed hardware and software for the classroom, environmental cleanups of local creeks and wildlife refuges, community grants, public tours of the company, Daffodils Day, tree plantings, toy drives, payroll deductions to charities, are just a few examples.

At NUMMI, where my Summer Fellowship took place, feels that taking care of the environment is everyone's job. Many laws at all levels of our government have been passed to protect our environment. These laws affect everyone. These regulations can be discussed in the classroom. It's important to discuss them because these regulations affect their health and safety and helps the students develop community awareness and civic responsibility. It's important for them to know how to recycle, how to dispose of hazardous waste, keep water and air clean and how it benefits them.

During my Summer Fellowship, I acquired many technological skills that will be very useful in the classroom. PowerPoint, Excel, word-processing, digital cameras use, and movie making are some of the technological skills I've learned. I can see how my students will be able to improve their English by doing an autobiography of their lives using PowerPoint, they can work on improving their job interview skills by video taping their interviews, they can do writing assignments using a word-processor, and they could make a class movie to improve their language fluency.