Agenda Item: Celebrating Innovation: Spirit Lake Community School District

Iowa Goal: All PK-12 students will achieve at a high level.

Equity Impact Statement: All students need to graduate college and career ready.

Presenters: Dave Smith, Superintendent
            Spirit Lake Community School District

            Kari Webb, Academic Dean
            Spirit Lake High School

Attachments: 1

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board hear and discuss this information.

Background: Spirit Lake High School is a public high school in a rural Iowa community, serving approximately four hundred students in grades nine through twelve. The district will share their experiences with interdisciplinary project based learning, online courses, workplace internships, and creating competency based pathways, while increasing student engagement in the learning process and facilitating academic work at high levels of rigor.

A team from Spirit Lake Community School District will share their vision, progress, and plan for transforming education.
FROM TRADITION TO TRANSFORMATION

“School within a School” Pilot Project
Spring 2011

“All School” Project Based Learning
January 2012

“Whole Grade” CBE-Pathways Core Academy
anticipated Fall 2012
1:1 Technology Launches “School within a School”

The Pilot Project was designed to investigate three strands of emerging, educational initiatives. Twenty students volunteered to participate in the “school within a school”, dedicating four of eight periods each day to the action research project.

**Interdisciplinary Project Based/Blended Class**
Students earned 1.0 credit in science and 1.0 credit in English Language Arts while participating in project based learning. The core content was delivered using open source online modules. Student projects were self-defined and integrated across the disciplines.

**Online Courses**
Each student in the pilot was enrolled in one online course from a wide variety of sources including Iowa Learning Online, University of Nebraska, BYU, e2020 and others.

**Workplace Internships**
Students earned 1.0 vocational credit by completing off-campus internships with a variety of workplace mentors.
In January 2012, the teachers and students of Spirit Lake High School experienced Project Based Learning, and Competency Based Education Pathways. Traditional classes were set aside to allow every learner a chance to engage, create, build, explore...and to become a part of the global conversations of the 21st Century.
Meaningful and Positive Assessments of Learning
Off Campus Expeditionary Learning
Teacher as Coach, Mentor and Guide
Application of Universal Constructs
Credit Earning Based upon Mastery
Focus on Whole Person Wellness
Project Based Senior Interns
Creation and Application of Knowledge
Spirit Lake’s January Term: Competency Based Education Pathways

Off Campus Expeditionary Learning
Real World Learning
Project Based Senior Interns
Focus on Whole Person Wellness
Credit Earning Based upon Mastery
Application of Universal Constructs
Meaningful and Positive Assessments of Learning
Creation and Application of Knowledge
Teacher as Coach, Mentor and Guide
The Core Academy

Coming This Fall 2012

The Core Academy is designed to allow each student to develop a personalized learning pathway to achieve the standards, concepts and skills prescribed by the Iowa Core in Earth Science, Geography, and ELA.

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<td>CONTENT</td>
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<td>Separate disciplines taught in isolation</td>
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<td>All levels of Bloom’s Taxonomy required for credit</td>
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<td>GRADES</td>
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<td>A, B, C, D, Fail</td>
<td>A, B, C, or NYC or IWS</td>
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“January Term taught us new ways to learn and a different way to look at things….Maybe one day the whole points system can be done away with, and everyone can learn what is being taught.”

----11th grade student