

# FIPSE PROJECT UPDATE

August, 2012



FIPSE students, faculty, & staff at summer presentation of project.

## Project Overview:

This FIPSE (Fund to Improve Post Secondary Education) Project is a 3-year grant which partners MassBay Community College, UMass Boston & educational institutions in Haiti. We are working to enhance educational collaborations and cross-cultural experiences between two nations: Haiti and the US. We are working to accomplish this through a joint curriculum design, training of Haitian trainers and a shared practicum which imbeds a service learning component.

## Recent Accomplishments!

### Course Implementation:

- In April '12, the Education Department at MassBay Community College approved the FIPSE course: Gateway to Cultural Competency for Teachers in Training.
- Five Early Childhood Education (E.C.E.) students were successfully recruited to participate in the project- four from MassBay Community College and one from UMass Boston.
- Linda Romero, head of E.C.E. Department at MassBay, led the course along with guest lecturer, Dr. Marc Prou, Professor and Department Chair of Africana & Caribbean Studies at UMass Boston.
- The course included 2 pre-travel sessions; service learning pre-practicum in Haitian classrooms; language & culture sessions in Haiti; and 2 post-travel sessions. Required readings, daily journals & a final capstone paper were a part of course requirements.

### Curriculum Design & Teacher Training Program:

- E.C.E. specialists, Linda Romero (MassBay) & Su Theriault (UMass Boston) led the curriculum design for the "Train-the-Trainers" program. Using Skype & teleconferences, Linda & Su collaborated with Haitian professors from the universities in Haiti & with Haitian trainer, Francesca Charles.
- In Haiti, the training was conducted from May 30-June 8, totaling 50 hours of training.
- Including 2 trainers and 6 pre-school directors, 28 Haitian participants received certificates for successfully completing the program. The Ministry of Education, Director for the Southeast region of Haiti attended the training & representatives spoke at the graduation ceremony.

### Other:

- Students & staff collected preschool donations from MassBay, UMASS, & the wider community. The donations were delivered to the participating teachers at the completion of the project.
- Strong partnerships developed during the travel to Haiti. The Ministry of Education, Director for the Southeast region expressed gratitude & strong interest in partnering with the project to expand the reach in Southeast, Haiti.



MassBay student, Maria Vasquez (above) & UMass Boston student, Jihane Etienne (below) doing educational activities with Haitian preschool students.



MassBay Assoc. Professor and Education Department Chair, Linda Romero, receiving appreciation award from participating teachers.

## Next Steps

- Haitian school director and program participant, Ms. Manie Telemaque, will lead an association of E.C.E. teachers for the Southeast region of Haiti. She plans to collaborate with the other participants of the training to develop the association- the first of its kind in the region.
- The students, staff, and faculty who participated in this trip plan to share additional presentations at MassBay's Professional Development Day on August 30<sup>th</sup> & for the wider MassBay community in October.
- After evaluating and reviewing the summer trip, revisions to the project will be made and implemented for the third pilot in winter session '13.
- Independent evaluator, Dr. Janet Smith will continue evaluating the project to measure goals such as increased global awareness and cultural competency in participating students from MassBay & UMass Boston.
- Plans to develop the Gateway to Cultural Competency course as a long-term course at MassBay is being explored as a way to replicate the project model in other academic fields and other countries.
- In order to expand and sustain the project, significant efforts will be made to increase funding and partnerships. These efforts include enhancing project visibility.
- In an effort to provide significant contributions to similar projects in the future, the FIPSE team is participating in local, national and international forums, presentations & other activities with the goal of disseminating information on best practices & lessons learned from this project.

## Snapshots of Haiti Travel 2012



MassBay student, Karen Price working on recyclable play materials with Haitian preschool teachers



Five participating students (left to right): Sana Humayun, Karen Price, Rebecca Melnick, Maria Vasquez, & Jihanne Etienne



ECE trainers, Linda Romero & Su Theriault; FIPSE Project Director, Rachel Bernard; & Professor and Chair of Africana Studies Department, UMass Boston, Marc Prou



Group picture at the graduation ceremony for participating Haitian teachers.

~For more information on the FIPSE project, please contact FIPSE Project Director Rachel Bernard at [rbernard@massbay.edu](mailto:rbernard@massbay.edu) or 508-270-4116~