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Mercer Service Scholars 2017
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Final Dissemination

Project Outcomes:

Overall, I raised \$2,446.13 to purchase several programs from Gallopade for Ingram Pye to utilize during the 2017-2018 academic year. These programs also come with software that will monitor the progress from the beginning of the school year until the end of the year. These programs will work in tandem with the Georgia public school standards and with Common Core standards. The programs also incorporate the social studies lessons with their supplemental reading courses. The following are the products that were purchased from Gallopade for Ingram Pye Elementary School:

- Interactive Write-In Readers Set for Kindergarten
- Georgia Experience Kindergarten Teach Digital Set; GSE Aligned for 2017-2018 School Year
- Georgia Experience 2nd Grade Teach Digital Set; GSE Aligned for 2017-2018 School Year
- Interactive Write-In Readers Set for 2nd Grade
- Georgia Experience 1st Grade Teach Digital Set; GSE Aligned for 2017-2018 School Year
- Georgia Experience 5th Grade Teach, Test, Track Digital Set; GSE Aligned for 2017-2018 School Year

Factors of Success:

Some factors of success definitely include some of the resources that I had available to me. I had two great resources in Dr. Sybil Keesbury and the Mercer Service Scholars who helped volunteer and work with the community for me to reach my target goal of over \$2,000. Another factor of success was the willingness of the community to support and donate to my project. The relationship that Mercer has established with Ingram Pye has created a strong affinity towards

the elementary school. The professional development relationship has provided Ingram Pye with some of Mercer's greatest resources, which in turn helped me hit the ground with a head start. Another factor of success has been the amount of time I was able to fundraise and the willingness of the Mercer community to allow me to fundraise at many different events. I was able to set up at football games, in the Connell Student Center, and the University Center to collect donations for the raffling. Lastly, one of the greatest factors of success has been the organizations and companies that donated prizes and giveaways for the raffle. Those organizations include Best Buy, Margarita's, DTH Expeditors, Walmart, and the Rosenzweig, Jones, Horne & Griffis law firm. These organizations and companies provided me with the materials to successfully create a fundraiser that did not cost me a dime. I am thankful for their support, for this project would not have been successful without them.

Barriers to Success:

Some barriers to success also include some of things that ultimately were successful. It is always hard to get college students to donate money to a cause. Having the raffle certainly gave students some incentive to donate, but raising the money was certainly a barrier. If I had not met my goal, perhaps not all of my project could have been funded. Another barrier has been talking with textbook and software companies that offer these textbooks and educational programs. It was difficult to try and get some bargains with some companies, and some were unwilling to offer any discounts after hearing my pitch. I understand they operate as a business, but trying to bring down the price on already expensive materials was a barrier to success. The last major barrier to success happens after my project is over. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to measure the success or failure of my project until test results and scores are provided for the students impacted by my project. Not knowing these results immediately makes it difficult for

someone else to decide whether they want to take on and continue my project in the future. I am confident that my project will be successful and have a lasting impact on the students affected; however, these results will not be available until several years after I have graduated from Mercer.

Improvements:

This project could have been improved by working with another student. I was only able to do so much work, and I was only held accountable to myself. But having another student would have challenged me to work harder, perhaps raise even more money, and would have made me more accountable in reaching my goals. I also believe that this would be an excellent project for a current junior to start now. I think that having two years of fundraising could really make a much larger impact. More materials could be purchased, more grade levels could receive materials, and that two-year process will allow the student to invest more into Ingram Pye and their faculty. The faculty were an excellent resource, but if I had two years to work on this project, I am confident they could have provided more insight and support, making the project even more successful than it already was.

What I've Learned:

Throughout this entire process, I gained some valuable leadership experience. I conducted this entire project on my own, so everything that I accomplished I had to create, design, and implement on my own. I also learned to rely on resources that are available to me, such as Mercer faculty and the faculty at Ingram Pye Elementary. These resources are often underutilized by many Mercer students, and I have learned their value and importance during this project.

I learned that my strengths include being able to micromanage an entire project and that I am able to stay on top of my work throughout the entire semester while balancing a course load and other extracurricular activities. I have always felt like I am a leader, and my four years at Mercer has strengthened my leadership capabilities. Completing this project has reaffirmed my confidence in my leadership abilities. I've also learned that some of my weaknesses include keeping updated and detailed notes on my projects. I work very hard to accomplish a lot, but I have not taken much time to sit down and record a lot of what I have done. I also have not taken much time to reflect on my work and suggestions for improving this project. I certainly could have kept better records, notes, and suggestions for anyone looking to continue my project in the future. However, this evaluation document and dissemination have helped me reflect back on my project, so there is some recorded data that I have written down now.

Overall, I thought my project was a huge success. The software and workbook programs are going to help students in K-3rd grade at Ingram Pye and I am excited for Ingram Pye to use the 5th grade tracking software to determine whether students are improving their reading comprehension skills. I am optimistic in believing that these programs will be successful. I would be happy to talk with anyone that is interested in continuing a project similar to mine if they have any questions or would like any advice. I know that this information is only about three pages long, and a face-to-face conversation might prove to be more beneficial. So, if anyone is reading this and would like to contact me with any questions or comments, I will be attaching my contact information at the bottom of this report.

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