

Ridgemont Local School District

Ms. Emmy M. Davis, Superintendent

Mr. Fred M. Reinemeyer, Treasurer

The Ridgemont Demonstration School of Workforce Development Partnership Agreement

Penn State University Agricultural Extension and Education department has a focus on research involving teaching and learning, both at the post-secondary and secondary level. Penn State faculty focuses on assisting with instructional strategies and educators to be more effective. As of late, the department has invested time and energy into the concept of developing global competency in teachers with the goal of creating an effective global educator that could thrive throughout the world in both formal and non-formal settings. Faculty emphasizes continuing the line of inquiry on global competency as well and seeking an interdisciplinary team to analyze the impact of a total secondary agricultural education program on rural communities: from economic perspectives, academic gains, and student self-efficacy gains.

Penn State University Agricultural Extension and Education agrees to partner with the subsequent strategies to contribute to the success of the bold and innovative solutions to advance the goals of Ridgemont Local Schools:

- Function as a virtual mentor to students and teachers at Ridgemont Local Schools
- Provide materials, resources and lab space to assist with research projects related to social sciences
- Serve as an authentic audience for project based and service learning projects.
- Connect for virtual field trips to provide authentic experiences for youth
- Display art installations in the workplace
- Serve as a guest speaker, virtually with technology or live in person when possible
- Provide authentic content for real-world learning projects for teachers and students
- Enhance curricular connections through the collaboration with compatible partners that currently exist with Penn State University Agricultural Extension and Education

Ridgemont Local Schools agrees to reciprocate the succeeding strategies to provide a mutually beneficial partnership:

- Provide youth authentic opportunities to create skills to be prepared for the workforce
- Engage youth and staff in regular relations with curriculum areas that tie to cross curricular initiatives to workforce development
- Reform curriculum to ensure every youth engages in project based learning with a workforce connection that prepares youth for leadership roles, as well as career and college readiness
- Bring local and global workforce needs to the forefront of Ridgemont's educational initiatives
- Integrate real world connections into every classroom K-12
- Our school district will build students who have cultivated relationships with business and industry professionals prior to graduation

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- Provide regular updates in work force development strides made by students and staff
- Include partnership information and updates in newsletters, newspapers, school webpages, etc.
- Collaborate with Penn State University Agricultural Extension and Education to conduct virtual workshops and presentations to demonstrate the “Best Practices” at professional conferences, pre-service teacher classes and other venues.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Foster

Daniel D. Foster, Ph.D.
Student Teacher Coordinator
Agricultural & Extension Education
The Pennsylvania State University
p: 814-863-0192
f: 814-863-4753
Skype: daniel.douglas.foster
@FosterDanielD
Personal Blog: <http://exponentiallyimpactful.blogspot.com/>