**Thaddeus Stevens & YouthBuild Summer Bridge Program**

**Introduction:**
The mission of YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School is to provide out-of-school youth in Philadelphia with the broadest range of tools, supports and opportunities available to become self-sufficient, responsible and productive citizens in their community.

YouthBuild Philadelphia’s unique, one-year program provides a second chance for young people to earn their high school diplomas and learn vital job skills through rigorous academics, vocational training and community service. Vocational training certifications obtained by our graduates are in the following fields:
- Construction (Home Builder’s Institute)
- Technology (IC3)
- Nursing (CNA)
- HVAC (General Introduction)
- CDL
- Automotive (General Introduction)

From the first interaction with YouthBuild Philadelphia, students are encouraged to start planning their next steps for post-secondary education to build on the skills they acquire throughout the year. Given the certifications YouthBuild students earn, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology is an ideal choice for many of our students to continue to build on the academic and vocational skills they have been acquiring because of the similarity in tracks, climate and culture, support and commitment to rigorous education of graduates.

**Purpose:**
The summer bridge program would expose 15-20 YouthBuild students to the culture, climate and expectations of all aspects of college life. This includes:
- An introduction to college level vocational coursework and materials
- Exposure/exploration to some of the vocational tracks offered by Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology beyond their YouthBuild experience
- Engage the non-cognitive barriers and issues that must be overcome for success in any post-secondary institution e.g., substance abuse, financial aid/budgeting, time management, etc.
- Building the confidence that they can succeed in a post secondary environment

In addition to the on campus experience, the students will complete a workshop series prior to and returning from Thaddeus Stevens. This workshop series will develop the expectations and reflection for the total experience. During the reflection workshop following the experience, students will complete a short internship with community partners to demonstrate their skills and get a taste of how those skills could be applied.

**Objectives:**
1. Students will successfully complete all work and assignments in developmental classes in three to four vocational tracks at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology
2. All students will complete a journal of academic and non-cognitive reflection each night
3. All students will complete a short internship experience with community partners
4. Five to seven Eligible students will be encouraged to successfully matriculate into fall classes at Thaddeus Stevens College
5. Ten to twelve students will successfully matriculate into fall classes at other post-secondary institutions
6. Students will see an increase in COMPASS assessment total battery scores from their pre-test to their post test (Is it possible to test at Thaddeus Stevens?)
7. NEW – Students will experience residential college and use this to motivate them toward lifelong learning.

Program Design and Staffing

Design:

April 2009 –
- Attend Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology Open House with all interested in attending
- YouthBuild students pre-test COMPASS Assessment with results shared with Thaddeus Stevens
- Approval of Program Design

May 2009 –
- Recruitment/Selection of current students for this program. The students chosen to participate would meet the following requirements:
  - Be on track for graduation according to YouthBuild graduation standards
  - Have completed an application to Thaddeus Stevens College for Technology
  - Scored sufficiently well on the COMPASS assessment exam as an indicator of future success at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology.
  Note: If score is close to developmental level – students may participate on a case by case basis and will be required to retake the assessment at the college over the summer

July 2009 –
- YouthBuild workshop series for post-secondary success – expectations
- Four week on campus experience
- Students on campus for the weekdays only Sunday evening through Thursday Afternoon, returning home on Thursday returning to Thaddeus Stevens Sunday evening

August 2009 –
- YouthBuild workshop series post-secondary success – reflection
- Students complete short internship experience

September 2009 –
- YouthBuild staff support on campus for matriculating students

Weekly Schedule:
Arrive by Amtrak Sunday evening
Monday – Thursday
  AM Developmental Instruction
  PM Non-Cognitive Instruction
  Dinner
  Activity
  Vocational Shop Time
  Lights Out (10 or 11 PM)
Thursday Evening – Return to Philadelphia by Amtrak
Friday – Sunday home in Philadelphia

Staffing:
  • Transition Services Department to handle all aspects of recruitment/selection,
    workshops & internship coordination/supervision
  • If 20 students or less - One YB staff member on campus for four weeks
    o Coordinate non-cognitive activities
    o Supervise activities on campus – basketball, soccer, swimming
  • Four Instructors from Thaddeus Stevens – Programs TBD
  • Thaddeus Stevens Counselors?

Expected Costs: (20 participants for four weeks)
**Thaddeus Instructors**
  $40/hour per instructor
  Subtotal - $2,560

**Food**
  Meals – 8.00/day/person
  Snacks – 3.00/day/person
  Subtotal - $4,400

**Dorm Fees**
  Thaddeus to cover

**Transportation (Amtrak)**
  $15/person/trip
  Subtotal - $600

Total Cost for four weeks of training at 20 participants - $7,560

***Students will receive a stipend of $100/week to cover transportation and food during training. Total $6,000 for 20 participants

Next Steps:
  1. Questions, Revision and Approval of Proposal
  2. YB Students take COMPASS Assessment test (April 2009)
  3. YB students apply to Stevens