

Artifact Reflection- Designing a Career Cluster for Perkin's Grant

By John M. Berner

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This Career Cluster was developed in February, of 2008 to apply for a Perkin's Grant. The opportunity was given to me during my student teaching experience and addresses professional responsibilities. The purpose of developing the career cluster was to offer course guidance to students who want to take appropriate classes which would prepare them for a range of career opportunities.

In developing the framework, I learned about the structure of the school's courses, the value of course credits, prerequisites, suggested courses, and order of course selections so that students get the education they need to pursue their desired field of careers. I started by using an online template and researched the courses in which Durand High School offered. Then I filled required courses into the template so that I could budget possible elective credits. After choosing a cluster of careers and giving it a name, I chose courses that would best prepare the students for seeking further education and/or employment.

If I had the opportunity, I would add more extra-curricular activities, clubs and organizations, competitions, and classroom projects in which students would have an opportunity to add to a resume'. With budget cuts, money to fund the programs would have to come from grant money. I would also visit with the school counselor to find and add possible scholarship opportunities that are relevant to the careers offered.

Previous experiences have been geared toward teaching in the classroom. The opportunity to creating a career cluster gives me experience in giving students connections to the rest of the world.

The Wisconsin Teaching Standards that align with this artifact are "knowing content," "knowing how children grow," "knowing how to communicate" and "knowing how to collaborate." The teaching domains that are best represented are "planning and preparation" and "professional responsibilities." As a teacher, I need to understand the purpose and relevance of the courses I am teaching. The career cluster helps address the needs of the students in their life planning. I need to encourage students to seek out further education and career opportunities. In being able to affectively do that, I need to stay in communication with the school guidance counselors and other teachers that offer experience thru school functions. I need to make good contacts with the community and let them know what I am doing, what my needs are, and how they can possibly help out their local school's education. My student teaching experience has shown me that the community has resources that can greatly impact a school program.