

**High-Impact Service-Learning in  
an Urban Teacher Preparation  
Program: A Grant Funded Literacy  
Project with Incarcerated Youth**

**By**

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# The Study



- **Qualitative study on students in a teacher preparation program.**
- **Impact of using a service-learning project as a pedagogical tool.**



# Project Objectives



- **Promote citizenship and student learning in a teacher preparation program.**
- **Provide community outreach to the closest school to the university campus.**



# Project Objectives Cont.



- **Introduce pre-service teachers to teaching special populations, specifically at-risk/incarcerated youth**
- **Provide youthful detainees with a creative, unique, and rewarding literacy development project - writing, illustrating, and publishing five children's picture books**
- **Provide Juvenile Justice Center teachers with professional support**

# The Grant



- **State Representative Sylvester Turner  
Community Engagement Funds**



# The Grant



**Criminal Background Check      \$10.43 x 37  
= \$385.91**

**Book Self-Publishing Package \$1449.00 x 5 =  
\$7,245.00**

**Illustrating Materials      \$30.00 x 5 = \$150.00**

**PROJECT TOTAL = \$7,780.91**

# Persons Served



- **Education students in the PED 3301: Introduction to Special Populations course**
- **Incarcerated youth at charter school located in the Juvenile Probation Department**
- **Juvenile Justice Center teachers**



# Project Activities



- Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) students, working under the guidance of UHD pre-service teachers, write drafts for five children's picture books.
- Pre-service teachers provide JJC students with editing feedback and writing instruction at the point of need.
- JJC students, writing under pseudonyms, add biographies to the book drafts.
- Submit the five illustrated children's book drafts to Author House, a self-publishing book company.



# Project Administration



- Obtain permission from JJC charter school principal to conduct project.
- Obtain permission from university administration to take students to JJC.
- Pre-service teachers and university faculty arrange date and time with JJC administrative staff to obtain pre-criminal background check clearances.
- Pre-service teachers and university faculty obtain administrative permission from university for fieldtrip to JJC.

# Project Administration



- Collect signed fieldtrip waivers from UHD students.
- Train pre-service teachers in teaching at-risk youth, writing instruction methodology and children's picture book publishing protocol.
- Conduct field trip orientation tour of JJC.
- JJC staff visit university to orientate pre-service teachers in working with JJC students.
- Pre-service teachers, under the guidance of university professors and JJC teachers, visit JJC to complete drafts of children's books with JJC students.

# Project Administration



- **Provide copies of the published children's picture books to JJC students, teachers, and administrators.**
- **Provide report and copies of published children's picture books to the grant provider, State Representative Sylvester Turner, and the university Office of Global Citizenship.**



# Juvenile Justice Center Orientation





# Juvenile Justice Center Photos



# Research Questions



- How did the literacy project influence students' attitudes and perspectives towards the culture of special populations?
- What impact did service-learning have on the pre-service teachers' knowledge and understanding of individuals within special populations?
- What did the literacy project reveal to the pre-service teachers about the literacy development of the incarcerated youth?

# Methodology



- Using an emergent coding method (Merriam, 1998), the authors sought to establish a triangulation of the findings across multiple transcripts. Results indicated students' attitudes, perspectives, and knowledge of special populations and literacy development broadened as a result of the project.

# Results



## **Pre-service teachers'**

- **Attitudes**
- **Perspectives**
- **Knowledge**

**of**

- **special populations**
- **literacy development**

**broadened as a result of the project.**



# Findings



## **Positive outcomes for:**

- **Pre-Service Teachers**
- **Juvenile Justice Center  
(community organization)**
- **University**

# Added to the Literature



- **Validated service learning as a pedagogical tool in teacher preparation programs.**



# Books For Sale Online



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the BookLand website. The address bar shows the URL <http://www.bookland.com/eng/contributors/colin-dalton>. The page title is "Colin Dalton / BookLand". The navigation menu includes "Home", "Books", "Periodicals", and "Dictionaries". The main content area is titled "Colin Dalton" and features a placeholder image for the contributor. Below this, a section titled "Books" displays five books for sale:

Book Title	Price
The Art of Never Giving Up	3.80 USD
Memoirs from the Heart	3.80 USD
Freedom	3.80 USD
The Struggle: The Life of a Feddi Boy	3.80 USD
Keep Faith, Stories, and Letters	3.80 USD

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the system tray with the date and time: 4:14 PM, 11/5/2013. The taskbar also includes icons for FlipShare, Google Chrome, RealPlayer, and several Microsoft Office applications.