



**DeKalb High School**

District 428/NIU Partnership Schools

## **Celebration of Accomplishments and Visions of the Future**

**DeKalb Community Unit School District Board Room**

**February 16, 2010 5:30-7:00 PM**

### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION SHARING SUMMARY: EXCITEMENT, ANXIETY, AND CELEBRATIONS**

#### **What excites you most about the potential of the Partnership? When you dream the ideal, what is your vision?**

Better training for experienced teachers and well-prepared beginning teachers

Reciprocal benefit

Open conversations about improvements

Partnership activity inspiring high schools students to become teachers

World-class, globally prepared graduates

Visioning what schools will be like in the future

Known as standard of academic excellence

Student prepared as productive citizens

Seamless learning between theory and practice

Benefits to our kids and the community

Sense of community and giving back, not just doing a job

On-site—keeps NIU and teacher education programs up-to-date

Detailed, in-depth look at and improvement to the high school curriculum

Common language and enlightening and inspiring dialog between two institutions

Quality of PDS model which merges the theoretical and practical for teacher candidates

Teaching students to adapt to change

Potential for adapting curriculum

Additional resources, sharing, and teaming of human resources

Excited teachers, parents, and administrators

Potential to strengthen community

Students attracted to NIU

Active engagement of all members of our community in developing our most valuable resource

#### **In your vision of the high school partnership, what is most scary or most unknown at this point?**

Burden on us to 'do it right', especially in the preservice experience

Responsibility for being the 'model'

Time requirement-spreading too thin? Not only commitment for either party.

Total commitment not clear, thus balance between institutions not yet established

Sustainability

How to build in the adaptability to change

How to train students to succeed in high-needs schools

Changing student's lives

Building something new

Dreaming of something bigger and getting them to invest in the potential

Coordination between five colleges and one high school—huge endeavor

Communicate support and rigor for all students not just everyone being college-bound

**What are you most proud of thus far regarding the DHS/NIU Partnership?**

Overcoming differences to learn how to work together

That we are still going, especially despite budget challenges

STAR tutoring program and other pilot projects

NIU tutors learning about students on a very personal basis

Overwhelmingly positive response to Late Starts with 84% of the staff wanting to continue!

Having a preservice model helps us be ahead of the curve for induction and mentoring

Hard work of curriculum alignments

Sustainable model

Alignment of implementation

Relationships being developed

Systemic vision

Significant bumps in the road—worked through in a positive, productive way

Invitation of openness and genuine communication, overcoming some feelings of mistrust

Good instruction

Everyone improves and benefits: DHS student and faculty, NIU students and faculty

Vision of synergistic partnership and world-class achievement

Enthusiasm

**ATTENDANCE**

**NIU:** Marilyn Bellert, Paulette Bowman, Kristin Brynteson, Susan Callahan, Chris McCord, Sharon Smaldino

**DISTRICT 428:** Kevin Beverly, Valerie Bilek, Jim Briscoe, Cheryl Callighan, Kari Cremascoli, Russ Fletcher, Andrea Gorla, Chad Gregory, Lindsey Hall, Fred Heuschel, Jennie Hueber, Cindy Lofthouse, JoAnne Miller, Mary Miller, Doug Moeller, Tia Robinson, Deb Schmalholz, Roger Scott, Margo Sickele, Mike Verbic, Jennifer Verbic, Holly Wallace