Advancing Equity through Deeper Learning in Rural Schools: The Journey of School Transformation

AYPF Study Tour
Charleston, South Carolina
February 1-3, 2017

This study tour will address how two high-needs rural schools in South Carolina are addressing the challenges of preparing students for college and career success. The i95 “Corridor of Shame” in rural South Carolina is characterized by high illiteracy and high unemployment, yet within this corridor, two districts are working to transform their community into a “Corridor of Innovation.” They are accomplishing this with the New Tech Network, a leading design partner for comprehensive school transformation, as well as the Riley Institute, based at Furman University. These two STEM-focused New Tech high schools—Scott’s Branch High School and Cougar New Tech—will graduate their first classes in 2017. The schools utilize four design pillars: culture that empowers students and teachers, project-based learning, broad use of technology, and school-wide “deeper learning” student outcomes. Additionally, dual enrollment with college courses and engagement with regional employers are helping to advance equity and opportunity for students, families, and the community by promoting student development, growth, and economic self-sufficiency.

Agenda

Day 1 – February 1, 2017

North Charleston Marriott Hotel
4770 Goer Drive
North Charleston, South Carolina 29406
Phone: 843-747-1900

4:00pm Welcome, Introductions, Study Tour Overview
4:30pm Defining Deeper Learning Student Outcomes

Chris Shearer, Education Program Officer, Hewlett Foundation

Speaker will provide an overview of deeper learning consisting of the value of deeper learning, defining the deeper learning competencies and student outcomes, and the strategies to look for on the site visits that foster deeper learning.

5:00pm The New Tech Network Model

Lydia Dobyns, President & CEO, New Tech Network
Dr. Kristin Cuilla, Senior Director, New Tech Network

Speakers will provide an overview of the New Tech Network model, their work in South Carolina, and their work with the two schools to date.

5:30pm Break
5:45pm Keynote Address: Education Policy and Reform in South Carolina

Speakers:
**Dr. Latoya Dixon**, Director, Office of School Transformation, South Carolina Department of Education

**Lauren McCauley**, Personalized Learning Education Associate, Office of School Transformation, South Carolina Department of Education

Speakers will provide context regarding the educational setting of rural South Carolina including an overview of the state education policy context and outline of current successes and challenges pertaining to education reform.

6:15pm  Networking Dinner

**Day 2 – February 2, 2017**

6:30am  Breakfast at Hotel

7:30am  Travel to Scott’s Branch High School  
9253 Alex Harvin Highway  
Summerton, South Carolina 29148  
Phone: (803) 574-2100  
Principal: Dr. Gwendolyn Harris

9:00am-1:00pm **Site Visit to Scott’s Branch High School**

The site visit will include the following:

- Student-Led Tour
- Overview of School by Leadership
- Project Deep Dive
- Teacher Panel
- Student Panel
- Lunch with Principal, Teachers, and Students

1:00pm  Participant Reflection/Debrief

2:00pm  Travel Back to Hotel

3:00pm  Break

4:00pm  Role of Partnerships in Promoting School Transformation and Student Success

Speakers:

**Dr. Don Gordon**, Executive Director, Riley Institute at Furman University  
**Dr. Peggy Torrey**, Director, TransformSC  
**Dr. Kristin Cuilla**, Senior Director, New Tech Network  
Moderator: **Alan Richard**, Chair, The Rural Schools and Community Trust

Moderated panel will discuss their relationship with the two schools, the history of the partnership, and strategies for encouraging collaboration between secondary education, postsecondary education, and business in rural communities.

5:00pm  Break
5:15pm  State Team Time

State teams will debrief, reflect, and begin planning how they will incorporate what they are learning into their own activities.

6:15pm  Networking Dinner

Day 3 – February 3, 2017

6:30am  Breakfast at Hotel

7:15am  Travel to Cougar New Tech

Colleton County High School
150 Cougar Nation Drive
Walterboro, South Carolina 29446
Phone: (843) 782-0031
Principal: Dr. Melissa Crosby

8:30am-noon  Site Visit to Cougar New Tech

The site visit will include the following:

- Student-Led Tour
- Overview of School by Leadership
- Project Deep Dive
- Teacher Panel
- Student Panel

Noon  Final Participant Reflection/Debrief of Study Tour

12:30pm  Lunch and Travel Back to Airport