6th Annual Dual Enrollment Conference

This was the biggest and best conference so far. The energy was palpable and it was great to see our Dual Enrollment teachers gathered here on Kendall’s campus once again. Our Dual Enrollment family now includes 34 DE teachers and 3 DE Coordinators. We have expanded to the Upper Peninsula with the addition of Norway High School and to Indiana border with Cassopolis High School.

Rick Brunson, Assistant to the President, discussed Dual Enrollment’s current and long term goals and projections, Donna St. John, Assistant Professor and DE teacher offered helpful tips on accessing online grading and Jamie Watson, Assistant Professor and Chairperson of the Sculpture Department shared techniques on how best to present 3D curriculum to our high school artists.

1st Annual Pow Wow

The afternoon following our 6th annual DE conference, approximately 14 veteran teachers and staff gathered on the balcony overlooking the
student commons to discuss new ideas, problems and solutions. It was a success on every level as several important issues were not only discussed, but were resolved and approved by that evening at the DE Coordinators dinner. A big thank you goes to Sandy Britton, Kendall’s Director of Enrollment Management.

As we all know Kendall’s Dual Enrollment program is unique and to the best of our knowledge the only one of its kind in the United States. So logically it follows that some of our challenges are unique and require a creative solution.

After more than two hours of energetic brainstorming and problem solving it became clear that there were three main issues that concern our group.

1. The need for a seamless transition for our DE students applying to attend Kendall full time.

2. 1st annual Kendall Dual Enrollment College Day: kicking-off Friday, October 2, 2009.

3. Dual Enrollment admissions officer:

The group felt we needed one admissions officer to work with our students and teachers. The reasons given were:

a. it would improve efficiency.... one officer would become familiar with the specific needs of each teacher and their students as well as DE as a whole

b. it would improve communication

c. the officer would attend and participate in our annual conference and college day

ArtPrize

September 23 – October 10

ArtPrize is an open competition to any artist in the world from September 23 – October 10, 2009, held in downtown Grand Rapids, MI. There are ten prizes that will be awarded; the top prize is $250,000. Voting is open to anyone who is registered. Go to ArtPrize.org for a detailed list of host venues, voter registration sites and the calendar of events.
First Annual DE College Day October 2, 2009

An outcome of the 2009 Conference and Pow Wow is the first ever Dual Enrollment College Day on October 2nd, from 10 AM – 3 PM. The purpose of College Day is to give DE students a firsthand look at Kendall. Students will tour the Kendall campus, visit the lofts at S Lyon (student housing), talk to Kendall students and participate in an interactive workshop. Since many dual enrollment students are traveling from across the state, College Day will include a lunch-on and tour of downtown Grand Rapids. There are tons of exciting things to see in our town that is alive with the arts, and certainly students will feel that creative electricity that lights up our community.

The hope is that many of these students who are already affiliated with Kendall through the dual enrollment program will continue that relationship, creating a smooth transition after graduation. College Day will be an annual event happening each October for all students enrolled or interested in joining dual enrollment.

Dual Enrollment Coordinators and Their Regions

Edie McAfee
Region 2

Diane Heath
Region 4

Nancy Barry
Region 5

Rick Brunson
Regions 1, 3, 6 & 7

The map on the left is a breakdown of the regional boundaries.
Region 4, Dual Enrollment Coordinator, Diane Heath, is the recipient of this year’s MAEA (Michigan Art Education Association) Teacher of the Year Award for the state of Michigan. Diane is an art teacher with Rochester Community Schools. She was co-nominated by Kendall’s President, Dr. Oliver Evans, and Assistant to the President, Mr. Rick Brunson. Diane is recognized for the incredible energy, skill and vision she has for the arts and for successfully transferring that passion to students and colleagues. She is also recognized for her outstanding work with the Region 4 dual enrollment program.

Dr. Evans will be in attendance to personally present Diane with the award at the MAEA Conference on Friday, November 6th.

Congratulations Diane Heath, on this prestigious and well deserved honor!
Donna St. John has been a teacher for 26 years in the K-12 setting; for five of those years, Donna has been teaching dual enrollment at Coopersville High School. Today, she describes the program as a “gift,” but there was a time when even she was a skeptic.

“When Rick Brunson came to my high school, I thought he was just there to look around, but at the end of the tour he asked if I would like to teach a dual enrollment class. I thought, “Do I want to take this on? I am already busy, how is taking on another thing going to help? I was cautious.”

It didn’t take long for Donna to find merit in a class filled with students passionate about the subject and eager to work together. Donna explains that instruction and expectations for dual enrollment are taken to a completely new level. The work reflects high motivation, the vocabulary is articulate and the techniques are practiced with rigor. Critiques and discussion are conducted with in-depth reflection because there is time for a small group of students to share their thoughts, in comparison to the fast-paced routine determined by the high numbers of students enrolled in regular classroom settings.

Even though dual enrollment classes are comfortably sized, the offering remains popular with students; enrollment averages 16 – 20 people. Participants can earn up to 12 college credits before graduation, which is a big cost savings for college-bound students and their families. However, Ms. St. John does have four criteria that must be met in order to be admitted into the program:

1. High visual skills
2. Understanding that art, and the creation of art, are one of the highest levels of intelligence
3. Strong work ethic
4. Willing to take risks

She estimates more than 50% of her dual enrollment students go on to pursue a field that is either directly related to the arts or closely related. For example, art education or graphic design. When asked how it benefits students, Donna pauses, then sums it up like this, “Just the fact that they can take college level classes is so valuable, but additionally, it gives the kids a chance to shine in an area that they dream about. Those going to college walk away better prepared, confident and their portfolios are much stronger. They deserve to do this!”

This fall, DE at Coopersville meets during block one, from 7:30 – 8:40 AM, approximately four times a week. Support continues to grow as dual enrollment matures. “You can really sense the pride and amazement that folks have for the level of work these students are producing,” says Ms. St. John.

All art in this issue is from Coopersville DE:
- Top Left: Africa, Painting by Tawney, Grade 12
- Top Right: Jazz Player, Painting done by Krystal, grade 12
- Middle Right: Digital Image, Tawney Graphic grade 12
- Bottom Right: Charcoal by Danielle, Grade 11

Photos of DE Conference, pages 1 & 2, courtesy of Rick Brunson
Photo of Kendall College of Art & Design, page 3, courtesy of the www.kcad.edu