

SOSY
Consortium
Incentive Grant



Solutions for Out-of-School Youth

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Participating States

- Colorado
- Florida
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Kansas
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Montana
- Nebraska
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Vermont
- Washington
- Wisconsin

Partner States

- Alaska
- Arkansas
- California
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Missouri
- Texas



Director's Note

Thank you for your continued hard work and support of Out-of-School Youth. I wish you all a happy holiday season and look forward to working with you next year. -Tracie Kalic- SOSY Solutions for Out-of-School Youth Consortium, Director

A Window to the World: Photography and OSY

We are well aware that OSY have obstacles such as frequent moves, busy work schedules and volatile living conditions that sometimes bring up different needs than those found with in-school students, so it is imperative that we think in a capacity that takes into account these potential problems. Success with media classes can be attained when considering these obstacles and designing lessons in a way so that one specific skill or technique can be easily instructed and mastered in one learning session. Since 2009 Peter Eversoll has been doing photography and media-related projects with Out of School Youth through the North Carolina Migrant Education Program. The activities have ranged from group digital photography and video classes to smaller "mini" lessons about very specific aspects of creating and disseminating digital media. The work produced through these projects has been shown in exhibitions at galleries and conferences, on television and in publications and documentaries. Class size ranges from individual students to over 10, and sometimes non-OSY Migrant Education students join the group. The class meets at a local park or at the camps where they live, and at the public library in bad or excessively hot weather- the only requirement being access to cameras. Aside from making and sharing compelling images, these projects are productive on a greater level by helping OSY focus on non-work related activities, and more importantly, offering them a space where creativity and fun are priorities.



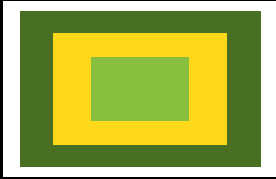
Peter Eversoll, Regional Recruiter for NCMEP, discusses teaching more than photography in his digital photo classes for OSY.

That way, a student can walk away from a class with the information and practice needed to be able to employ that particular skill in the future, regardless if they can consistently attend the class.

Additionally, taking advantage of contact hours while other services are performed is a great way to maximize the few opportunities of instruction often available with these students. For example, if OSY have a visit to the dental clinic, a mini lesson, "quiz" or review can be done in the waiting room, obviously with the OSY's willingness and taking into account the appropriateness of the situation.

Partner Organizations: National Center for Farmworker Help (NCFH), Adult Learning Resource Center (ALRC), the National PASS Center (NPC), and the National HEP/CAMP Association

A Window to the World: Photography and OSY (Cont.)



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Working with digital media often implies a certain element of equipment and technology- something that can potentially impede media based activities. An excellent way to address this problem is to use technology already available to the OSY: cell phone cameras, netbooks and/or smartphones, free internet connections at public libraries and fast food restaurants, shareware production programs, etc. Blogs, Twitter feeds and social media are all free on-line digital platforms for sharing ideas and images.

Also, students can send photos via cellphone text to both their classmates and instructor (family and friends, too), which helps facilitate the class in a very non-traditional way by adapting to the work schedule and rural isolation that many OSY face. Digital cameras do not have to be expensive and many high-quality cameras (both new and used) can be found for around \$50, adding another \$20 for memory cards and rechargeable batteries- it does not take much to assemble 3-5 cameras for a class. Creating a system of loaning-out and/or sharing cameras is a great opportunity to teach and reinforce skills such as responsibility, organization and teamwork. Students can even sell photo prints or books to raise money for equipment. It is important to not let limited access to technology discourage digital media-based projects. Remember, it's not the camera that makes great images, it's the photographer.



As those who have worked with OSY know well, the key to successful programming lies in the flexibility and creativity involved in providing educational activities. Digital media classes are no exception to this, and are actually an ideal area for their practice.



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Photos submitted by OSY in Peter Eversoll's Digital Photography class.

Community Partnerships Improve OSY Services in Pennsylvania

Since 1999, The Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU), which serves 19 counties in northeastern Pennsylvania, has been partnering with a regional medical facility to provide free medical services to Out of School Youth. And over the years, the services have expanded significantly as more community resources offered their assistance.

"We have always looked for ways to help our clients meet their educational goals," said Vonne Campbell, student specialist at the CSIU's migrant education program. "We offer English classes and find ways technology can assist them in learning the language."

Recognizing the migrant youth's need for direct access to medical and health resources, CSIU staff partnered with Geisinger Medical Center to provide free health clinics for migrant workers and their families. When a local church offered use of their building on Sundays, the clinic opened its doors.

"Because the church is located just a few blocks from one of the area's biggest migrant housing facilities, it was a great match," Vonne noted. "In that first year, we were able to hold eight clinics."

The following year, the Pennsylvania Department of Health offered to provide its Women, Infant and Children (WIC) and Family Planning programs at the clinics. This expanded the health and medical offerings to include tuberculosis testing, free immunizations, pregnancy prevention, and HIV and sexually transmitted diseases testing and counseling. In some cases, free medications were distributed.

Migrant education staff scheduled and coordinated the clinics, including recruiting volunteer translators for doctors who didn't speak Spanish. College students at two nearby universities donated their time to translate between patients and doctors.

Two years ago, migrant workers from Bhutan and Nepal joined the region's workforce. Geisinger has three doctors who speak that native language, and they have been providing services at clinics (which are now held at additional sites).

"What started out as filling a need for health services has grown into a large Convivio celebration," Vonne added. "The community donates clothing for the workers and food is shared among the participants. This is now an opportunity for them to come together and connect with other workers and learn about even more opportunities."



Community collaboration at work.



It is always helpful to involve the whole family in community partnerships.



"We have always looked for ways to help our clients meet their educational goals."

Vonne Campbell— MEP
Student Specialist

State Steering Support Team Meets in Nashville



The State Steering Support Team of the SOSY Consortium met during the OME Conference in Nashville on November 15, 2011. There were 32 people in attendance. All consortium SOSY state MEP directors and/or their representatives participated. Also in attendance: Bob Lynch (National PASS Center), Cindy Bartelsmeyer (FSCC) and Susan Durón (META Associates). Tracie Kalic convened the luncheon meeting at 12:00 noon, welcomed everyone to the State Steering Support Team (SSST) meeting, and asked the participants to introduce themselves. Introductions included representatives from CA, CO, FL, ID, IL, KY, KS, MD, MA, MS, MT, NE, NH, NJ, NC, NY, PA, SC, TN, VT, and WI. Representatives from OME also attended, including Lisa Ramirez, Pat Meyertholen, and Michelle Moreno. Susan Durón opened the meeting with a discussion of the next CIG competition. States were asked to submit a commitment letter.

Tracie Kalic reported on the work of the Technical Support Team: the TST is divided into 4 work groups: ID&R, Training, Technical Assistance, and Curriculum and Material Development. Tracie updated the SSST on the work of each individual work group and the TST Review Panels. Some highlights included:

- SOSY education resource rubric
- ID&R Field Based Recruiting document
- Training of Trainers Manual
- Discussion of website redesign

Bob Lynch, (NPC) and Brenda Pessin, (IL) provided a Curriculum Committee report. The report contained a list of all curricular items and other materials that are currently being developed. For more information, please see the meeting notes and SOSY Executive Summary on the SOSY website. The next meeting will be held during the NASDME Conference in Portland, OR. Thank you to all who attended and for your continued support.

Upcoming Events

January 10-11
KS OSY Advocacy Training

January 24-25
TST Meeting
Clearwater, FL

March 15
SOSY Training
New Jersey

The OSY Consortium builds capacity in states to identify, recruit, assess needs and deliver services to migrant, secondary-aged out-of-school youth.

For more information visit our website: www.osymigrant.org or contact Tracie Kalic at tkalic@embarqmail.com

In the following op-ed piece, Paul Whitley ponders some current issues, the work of Cesar Chavez and how we can improve the quality of our own work while dealing with decreasing resources.

CESAR ESTRADA CHAVEZ HAD TO CHANGE HOW HE DID HIS WORK—WHAT ABOUT YOU?

In a few years the 29,000 Out-of-School Youth identified and recruited last year will be telling stories to their children about how your work changed their lives forever. The OSY Tool Kit presented at the May, 2011 NASDME conference is serving you well as you work to improve the lives of those you are dedicated to serve. The Performance Measures designed to insure you are on track in pursuit of your work goals are equal to or superior to those used in corporations. You and The Consortium are to be commended on the integrity of your past successes. **There is no gap between the words you speak and the work you do.**

Your good work is not yet complete. The work of one of America's iconic heroes, Cesar Chavez had to change to achieve his goal in pursuit of justice and freedom. In 1952 he was working in apricot orchards. In the late fifties and early sixties he was creating organizations to support his work. In 1962 two unions merged to form the United Farm Workers of America. As he and his wife Helen were searching for ways to be successful Cesar experienced a tipping point that changed how he did his work. His eighth grade education didn't prepare him to speak—speak passionately as Gandhi and Martin Luther King moved their audiences to join their causes. He changed by developing the skill of speaking and added it to his tool kit for success.

To complete the work started by Cesar Chavez you need to be aware of the forces at work that will change how you do your work. Some of the forces are:

- Economics driving the globalization of food production, processing, marketing, and distribution
- The birth of the seven billionth person on our planet may already have occurred. Seven billion persons need to eat.
- Mechanization is reducing the numbers of workers in our fields, orchards, forests, and fisheries. For more evidence of this force go to a report from the Economic Research Service (www.ers.usda.gov) titled *The US Produce Industry and Labor: Facing the Future in a Global Economy*.
- The population of the U.S. is not keeping up with developing nations. The numbers of people crossing our southern border is now a trickle.

- The value of our homes and retirement accounts are shrinking.
- Resources of state, local governments and agencies are shrinking.
- Our support in the political arena is shrinking. Former public voices supporting our work are almost silent. Where have they gone?
- Forces working for the common good are shrinking and losing their effectiveness as special interests trump the common good.

CHANGE HOW YOU DO YOUR WORK: BUILD ON YOUR STRENGTHS AND THE INCREDIBLE POWER OF YOUR VISION

As you think strategically about how your work might change, consider some of these action plan ideas:

- Brainstorm your resources and practice sound resource management
- Identify non-traditional resources you may need if current resources are reduced
- Identify individual strengths
- Don't waste talent by mismatching skills to the job
- Can you afford non-productive folks
- Review performance frequently—annual performance reviews are like closing the gate after the horse ran away
- As you implement changes in how you do the work, continue building trust by making agreements with each other and keeping them
- Pay attention to the variables that influence how you do your work. To ignore them could leave you ill prepared to complete the work in which you have invested your life. This information is readily available and relatively easy to access. Don't delay. Don't deny the importance of new information. Don't delude yourselves by clinging tenaciously to old knowledge.

OLD KNOWLEDGE CAN HURT YOU AND YOUR WORK

Gerald Durrell, founder of the zoo on the English Channel Island called Jersey, was holding a non-poisonous West African snake to demonstrate the snake's blindness. Suddenly, he realized the so called vestigial eyes were not blind at all. Before he could react the snake bit him—he nearly died. As my high school Latin teacher Mabel Hixon said to us frequently, "A word to the wise should be sufficient."

**Paul Whitley, former Vice President of
Training for Tyson Foods.**