TARGET AUDIENCE

This program is for youth who have just completed 9th grade.

SUMMARY

Bridges to a Brighter Future, a school- and community-based program, is designed to prepare students academically, socially, and emotionally for success in high school and admission into a post-secondary institution through completion of a post-secondary degree. Students admitted into the program must reside in Greenville County, South Carolina.

EVIDENCE

No peer-reviewed publications evaluating the effectiveness of this program were located.

COMPONENTS

Bridges to a Brighter Future consists of three main components:

1. Summer Program - Students live on the Furman University Campus during the summer and attend weekly academic classes in English, Science, Math, and College Prep and attend evening and weekend workshops and field trips. Some of the workshop topics include financial aid, college planning, life skills, social etiquette training, and dangers of substance abuse. Students also participate in community service projects.

2. Saturday College - The Saturday College supports the summer program by meeting all year and focuses on academic and personal growth through tutoring, SAT/ACT preparation, and counseling.

3. Crossing the Bridge - The final component of the program, Crossing the Bridge, is designed to assist students with the transition to college. In addition to a short, intensive program over the summer, students also receive career mentoring and advisement and support throughout college that continues until graduation. Students also receive a technology stipend for purchasing electronic devices, such as laptops, tablets, and calculators.

PREVIOUS USE

Bridges to a Brighter Future began in 1997 as a 4-week summer program for students in three Greenville County, South Carolina, high schools. In 2005, the program was expanded to include Saturday College, which offered year round tutoring and academic assistance. Crossing the Bridge, the final component of the program, was added in 2010. The program has now served all fourteen of Greenville County’s high schools and the county’s four charter schools.
Bridges to a Brighter Future

TRAINING

This program is facilitated by Greenville County teachers, who serve as faculty, and local volunteer college students, who serve as live-in counselors and mentors. For facilitator training information, please contact the program developers using details in the Contact section.

CONSIDERATIONS

Considerations for implementation of this program include acquiring participant, volunteer, and high school teacher buy-in; recruiting volunteers; and building and maintaining good relationships with Furman University and other educational partner schools.

The Clearinghouse can help address these considerations. Please call 1-877-382-9185 or email Clearinghouse@psu.edu

IMPLEMENTATION

If you are interested in implementing Bridges to a Better Future, the Clearinghouse is interested in helping you! Please call 1-877-382-9185 or email Clearinghouse@psu.edu

TIME

Bridges to a Brighter Future is delivered over 7 years. The Summer Program meets for 4 consecutive weeks over the summer with one weekend off. Saturday College meets once a month for 8 months through the course of the academic year. Crossing the Bridge involves a week-long intensive seminar.

COST

Implementation cost information was not located. Please contact the program developer using details in the Contact section for information.

EVALUATION PLAN

To move Bridges to a Brighter Future to the Promising category on the Clearinghouse Continuum of Evidence, at least one evaluation should be performed demonstrating positive effects lasting at least one year from the beginning of the program or at least six months from program completion.

The Clearinghouse can help you develop an evaluation plan to ensure the program components are meeting your goals. Please call 1-877-382-9185 or email Clearinghouse@psu.edu

CONTACT

Contact the Clearinghouse with any questions regarding this program.
Phone: 1-877-382-9185 Email: Clearinghouse@psu.edu
You may also contact Danielle Staggers by phone 864-294-3176 or email danielle.staggers@furman.edu or contact Dean Bailey by phone 864-294-3134 or email dean.bailey@furman.edu

SOURCE

www.bridgestoabrighterfuture.org/partner-with-us.php

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