Sabbatical Outcomes

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My sabbatical unfolded into two scholarly streams. As per my original sabbatical proposal I conducted applied scholarship assisting the Migrant Education Advisor Program (MEAP), in devising more targeted interventions and improving their ability to monitor and evaluate outcomes. The MEAP is a collaborative between the Office of Migrant Education, the Masters in Counseling Program at Sonoma State University, and participating school districts. MEAP was developed to provide academic advisement and support services to middle and high school migrant students to promote educational advancement. MEAP also strives to use mentoring to increase the pool of potential bilingual/bicultural school counseling candidates.

The process began with meeting with stakeholders to clarify their needs. Once a plan of action was developed, I conducted an extensive literature review related to the academic achievement of Latino students in the U.S. educational system, and in particular migrant/immigrant students. The outgrowth of this literature review was a distillation of key factors associated with educational achievement the MEAP could use to both inform their service provision and to assess the outcomes of their interventions. A completed list of factors was presented to stakeholders, and together we worked to whittle the list down do something do-able for them to implement. With that feedback and plan, I set out to contact the primary authors of the relevant assessment instruments to gain permission for use and official copies of the instruments and scoring procedures. A final evaluation plan was then presented to MEAP for use in their future work. This plan will hopefully improve their accountability assessment process.

On a related note, I became involved with our local Latino Service Providers organization, joining the planning board for the "Mi Futero" event. This event is aimed at increasing the knowledge and awareness of mental health services and careers among Latino students. This event is in line with our own partnership with MEAP to create career paths for bilingual/bicultural school counselors and mental health professionals. The committee involved bi-weekly meetings. I will be conducting a workshop at the event on January 27, 2017.

Finally, I conducted research and completed a manuscript (submitted for publication) related to educating school counselors on their role working with students with special needs. The manuscript is currently under review for the juried publication Professional School Counseling