

CSU FRESNO

Trisha Studt, the Community Partnerships Coordinator, explained that their event took place on campus; they served a light breakfast. Approximately eight faculty members and four community partners participated, and the format was very informal. The event started after introductions and a short exercise on what makes effective partnerships (see Activity 4 in Appendix A for the question used). Additionally, the four community partners were placed at different “stations” around the room and the faculty members spent approximately 15 to 20 minutes with each partner exploring the possibility of working together—discussing, for example, whether the curriculum fit the need at the agency, whether the partnership would work, and so forth.

Successful Interactive Activity

The “wagon wheel” approach worked very well at Fresno. The community partners and faculty were “forced” to talk to each person. It was great for participants to discover potential partnerships, but, even if a partnership was unlikely, it was still a chance to learn more about the other person.

Successful Recruitment Strategy

Fresno chose a topic (Hmong refugees) and focused recruitment on faculty members whom they thought were interested in that topic. It helped to keep it issue-focused and small because they were able to personalize the invitation for everyone. Also, no one found themselves unable to converse, as the opening topic had been provided. Some found other ways to partner, but the initial focus on Hmong refugees made the conversations easy from the beginning.

Lessons Learned

Trish recommends keeping the workshops small and focused. She would rather do three trainings like this one than a very large training where it doesn't feel personal and some participants can get lost in the shuffle. They kept the “talking at” to a bare minimum and focused on encouraging dialogue between the guests.

Agenda

- 8:00-8:15 a.m. Refreshments
- 8:15-8:25 a.m. Trish introduces the day and the participants. Question to ask: Tell us about someone whom you've admired and looked up to who has lived a life of service or made that a part of their life.
- 8:25-8:35 a.m. Kathy, Community Partner, overview of the Hmong resettlement process.
- 8:35-9:00 a.m. Don, Community Partner, talk about partnerships between community-based organizations (CBO) and faculty.
- 9:00-9:25 a.m. Each CBO will spend five minutes talking about their organization's mission, programs, and needs.
- 9:25-9:30 a.m. Five-minute break.
- 9:35-10:15 a.m. Wagon Wheel Discussion. Rotate partner stations every 15-20 minutes.
- 10:15 a.m. Feedback and next steps.

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