



Student-Led Best Practices Submitted by Bonner Congress Representatives

Name of Best Practice:

CROP WALK

Contact Information:

Davidson College

Name of Congress Representative Preparing Report:

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Background:

Davidson has required all freshmen to participate in Crop Walk as part of Freshman Orientation for several years. CROP WALK is a national community-based fundraising event sponsored by Church World Service.

What Makes This Unique:

This is a best practice because it raises poverty awareness among *all* Davidson students. Through this practice, all students are exposed to the problems associated with hunger-stricken countries.

How it Works:

On the Saturday during freshman orientation, all new students including some faculty staff walk 6.2 miles through the town of Davidson. Students learn about the history of the town and gain some international perspective through statistics. For instance, the distance symbolic of the walk the average distance families in hunger-stricken countries walk to get food and water. After the walk a meal of rice and beans are served concretely linking the experience of the students to those they are walking to feed.

Recommendations:

Begin working on the Crop Walk as early as possible. Check out the Church World Service web site for deadline and registration information, if you are interested in partnering with this initiative:

<http://www.churchworldservice.org/CROP/>

Planning Process:

1. About three faculty members, a few staff members, alums and 1 or 2 seniors are chosen to lead the walk in groups of about 10-12 students. People who are chosen usually make raise pledges for the walk. Around

June, these people are notified about the walk and undergo approximately 30 minutes of training. During this training, they are shown the route and safety procedures are reviewed.

2. In June/July, churches and merchants in the Davidson community are notified about the walk. Two weeks before the walk, signs provided by CROP WALK go up around the community.

3. To get the townspeople more involved invitations are sent out, advertisements are put in church bulletins, signs are put up, and business owners are informed by word of mouth.

4. Bonner student involvement in the program starts over the summer when the Bonner Summer Intern plans and helps to organize the event.

- First year Bonner Scholars participate in the walk just like all the other freshmen.
- At least two former Bonners who are walk leaders.
- Bonner students serve as the orientation team members for the event.

Supplementary Documents:

Davidson web write up:

http://www2.davidson.edu/common/templates/news/news_tmp00.asp?newsid=2569