

Past Public Discourse Projects

Problem	Action
Adult fitness and obesity concerns in hometown	Researched other communities' responses to adult fitness needs. Presented plan for fitness trail to the Park Board and helped implement it.
Party buses and under-aged consumption in a local community	Collaborated with high school officials to implement an education program on the harms/potential consequences of underage drinking on party buses. Also worked with a community group and testified in front of the Minnesota State Senate Transportation and Public Safety Committee.
Achievement gap for students of color in hometown high school	Researched ways that other schools addressed similar issues and collaborated with a local organization to develop a plan for local middle and high school students. Presented the plan to the school board.
Concerns about the economic and social impact of the closure of the local high school	Interviewed business owners, mayor, and local residents to determine concerns. Coordinated with local businesses and the new school to create incentives for students and faculty to patronize local businesses in towns that lost schools due to school consolidation.
Lack of support for GLBTQ individuals at a high school	Worked with school counselor, high school principal, school district superintendent, and students to start a GLBTQ support group. Coordinated with a local university to implement teacher training on GLBTQ issues.
Communication difficulties between managers and employees who are non-native English speakers.	Discussed concerns with employees and managers and researched local organizations that could provide language-training support. Proposed plan to local and district managers, and English classes were included in the orientation process at restaurants.

Past Projects (continued)

Racist incidents and tensions at a high school	Researched methods to address racism and presented a plan based in inter-group dialogue to the principal. Worked with a local university to implement a program in inter-group dialogue at the high school.
Lack of low-income housing in hometown	Worked with local agencies to develop a plan to provide additional low-income housing. Met with the mayor and presented the plan to the city council.
Frustration and guilt experienced by siblings of children with disabilities	Coordinated with school and community organizations to develop and promote a support/discussion group for siblings of children with disabilities.
Domestic violence in a local community	Collaborated with police, social service agencies, and former victims of domestic violence to develop an outreach day to promote the resources available in the community.
Bullying at a high school	Presented a plan to the principal and the school board, who both agreed to support a student-led bullying prevention and awareness program.
Cultural barriers for Latino students and families in the school system	Worked with the school to develop a Latino-parent support group to facilitate involvement in teacher conferences and school meetings.
Unsafe levels of E. coli in a large regional lake	Researched a successful plan used by another community to disinfect the beach and reduce the geese population and presented it to the city council.
Outdated and dangerous football field/track turf at hometown high school	Presented an alternative to synthetic turf and a plan to pay for it to the athletic director and booster club representatives.
Social isolation of special education students in a school district	Met with school officials and students to develop a student group to facilitate interaction between special education and standard curriculum students.