

**Title of Grant:** Students in Free Enterprise Teams (SIFE): Offering VCCS Students Excellence in the Classroom and Beyond through Service Learning and Global Engagement

**SP2008 – 79W-FF**

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**Abstract:**

This workshop was designed to assist VCCS faculty in developing Students in Free Enterprise teams on their campuses. Benefits and challenges that accompany the service learning environment, as well as recognition for students, faculty, and the college were presented.

**Actual Outcomes:**

The focus of this workshop was to educate 21 Virginia community colleges on the benefits of a campus student SIFE Team. Currently only BRCC and JTCC have SIFE teams. All VCCS colleges were invited to attend this workshop with the goal of inspiring a minimum of 25% of the attending colleges to start a SIFE organization on their campus. These student organizations benefit students who apply their classroom learning to real world issues while learning the value of giving back to their communities. They also benefit the faculty through discovery and service to their communities and colleges as a whole with their ability to offer students a more global educational environment. Colleges in turn receive the attention of their communities encouraging future community/business to college partnerships and possible philanthropic attention.

**Other Colleges:**

TCC, NVCC, DSLCC, CVCC, TNCC, VHCC, PHCC, and members of BRCC (8 colleges) attended the workshop.

**Discussion and Critique:**

I think the workshop was extremely informational, successful and informative and would repeat it exactly as it was offered.

**Evaluation:**

On a post workshop survey was distributed to all workshop attendees 100% of attendees found the workshop a worthy event and 100% plan to pursue the idea of starting a team on their campuses. SIFE USA has reported that as of the beginning of the fall 2008 semester four teams had been authorized by SIFE USA to be started within the VCCS system.

**VCCS Benefits:**

This grant created statewide awareness of the SIFE program and its benefits to the VCCS college system, the community, college faculty, staff and students.