What I Did

We developed a restorative after school program as a pilot for a future charter school. In the development stages we held listening sessions with some of the county school board members and administrators, as well as with parents and students. We held a School to Prison Pipeline forum with people from the Virginia Department of Education and Legal Aide to help inform the community of the growing number of students from our schools that end up in the judicial system.

Why I Did It

I recognized the disparity of opportunity for successful preparation in the schools particularly amongst students of color. This state of unpreparedness often resulted with many students being involved with the school to prison pipeline.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

- Nelson Mandela

What We Accomplished

Within the Capstone time frame we were able to organize and incorporate In Touch Academy. In doing so we further built community interest and garnered more support to help create the type organization that would bring transformation through education. Two months after completing my Capstone, In Touch Academy became a 501c3 Non-Profit. Our collaborative efforts with the local school board have allowed us opportunity to pilot our program at Arcadia Middle School. This will be a restorative after school mentoring program designed to focus on building social and emotional stability which will increase academic aptitudes.

Who I Worked With

I developed a board of directors with members of varying levels of expertise and passion to help develop our program. We certainly engaged the community with parent and student events. We worked with the Accomack County School Board and its administration. We also worked with outside consultants to assist with organizational incorporation.

Key References

Dialogue and the Art of Thinking Together; William Issacs
Measuring and Improving Social Impacts; Marc J. Epstein and Kristi Yuthas
The Little Book of Restorative Discipline for Schools; Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz and Judy Mullet
The Little Book of Circle Processes; Kay Pranis