

**APPENDIX G**  
**2006 Summerbridge Dayton**  
**Teacher Survey Responses**

**1. What were your expectations for yourself and the program this summer?**

To cover enough of early American History to prepare my students for the next school year and to help the students realize that when they make the right choices, their lives will be better.

My expectations for myself were to teach the kids something about math and to figure out if I want to pursue education as a profession. My expectations for the program were that it would prepare the students for their next school year and to keep them out of trouble.

I thought that the kids would be bad but they turned out to be cool. They were hardworking and well behaved.

I wanted the students to learn about science through fun and hands-on activities as well as be prepared for their science and writing OGT.

I wanted to improve my teaching skills, meet new teachers, and gain more experience in teaching middle school students.

To help students with the upcoming standards.

My expectations for Summerbridge were to touch just one student's life. I wanted to educate them and motivate them to believe in themselves.

My expectation for myself was to teach and guide students through their Summerbridge experience. I expected to do my best in planning my lessons, teaching students, and working with the staff and Miss Pat efficiently.

To find out what I was like in a position of power. Whether or not I was a pushover with my students.

## **Were they met?**

For the most part.

Yes, they were.

Yes!

Yes. Students did several labs and wrote in journals about what they learned.

Yes!

I made lesson plans, homework, tests, and labs. I helped the students on a one-on-one basis, in groups, and as a class. The students helped each other. As a class, we helped each other.

Oh yes. I learned the respect that was necessary to get them to believe.

Yes, this experience was greater than I expected. I achieved my expectations and more.

Absolutely.

## **2. What did you enjoy most about your job this summer?**

Working with the students and giving them incentives and reasons to stay in school and get good grades.

I enjoyed the entire summer and process very much.

The happiness of the program. Everyone was so alive.

I enjoyed working and learning from the other teachers. I enjoyed reaching the students.

Teaching the novel Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. I was excited to teach some adolescent literature.

I enjoyed the students. I enjoyed getting a chance to work in my field. I love to help students and show them things. If I have made them grow into their next steps, it is very rewarding.

The kids. They all have different personalities that change daily. I also met wonderful teachers.

Working with a group of teachers (and Miss Pat) while guiding students.

Getting to know such a diverse group of people.

### **And the least?**

Lack of staff togetherness.

Nothing!

Some of the teachers were a little evil.

The attitude from some of the students as well as a lack of respect from them.

Early mornings!!

Some of the employees were mean to others. There was a lot of gossip going around with the staff.

The lack of support from the Assistant Director. There was no welcome, just complaints about the progress the new teachers implemented. She also was allowed to miss too many days and meetings for personal things.

The small classroom. I felt I was limited without a computer and in a small classroom.

Tension between the staff (racial and sexual).

### **3. What new insights did you acquire about teaching/education/children you didn't have prior to this experience?**

That you have to pick your battles.

The biggest insight that I gained was gaining the knowledge that I would like to pursue teaching as a professional option. I also learned how to better interact and communicate with children and I learned a lot about dealing with cross-culture issues.

I learned that all students are capable if they try. That's all. Just try. They will go far.

I know that all students are different people with different needs. As a teacher it is important to change up your teaching style to reach as many students as possible.

Patience is imperative. Everyone learns differently and it's important to appeal to all learning styles.

I know if I got into a class confidently; knowing it is okay to make mistakes; it makes it a lot easier.

I have never taught before. This enabled me to figure out how to culturally be on their level without being on their level. My technique worked well.

The fact that I was that age once and that they need positive guidance and experiences. Students do look up to you and you need to be positive, supportive, and flexible.

Don't get involved in other people's business! Let them deal with it and keep my mouth shut. If you give students respect and the responsibility that goes with it, they will perform well. I also learned about working with students with disabilities and that it's nearly impossible to reach every single student.

#### **4. What could/should schools do to improve the teaching of middle schoolers/**

Better qualified teachers, not just teaching to the standards; give more motivation and encouragement.

Teach them something firstly. Second, encourage their dreams and teach them that they really can do anything they want to do.

Make the class sizes smaller. Teachers could work better one on one.

Teach them manners and respect; show the students where they could end up.

Make classes more interesting. Incorporate things that the students have an interest in.

I would like to see more lessons geared to multi-intelligence; less lecture and more hands on.

They should STOP teaching the TEST! Teach the kids. Half of them can't write a proper sentence in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Include field trips that relate to them. For example, the Juvenile Detention Center. Educate students about real life experiences.

Offer more training for diversity. Bring them to the Juvenile Detention Center more often.

**5. If you were the SBD program director, what changes would you make?**

Make the program longer by 1 or 2 weeks in order to be more comprehensive over certain subjects, especially those dealing with African American and Native American issues.

I can't think of a single thing that I would change. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this program.

Nothing. Pay more. . .

I would have had more time for the staff to get to know each other before the program started. I would have made an example out of the students who were out of line by kicking them out of the program.

I would add a few more field trips. I would also ensure that the teachers were culturally diverse.

The only thing I would change is rearrange the staff. Not everyone clicked which is fine, but some employees did not respect the assistant director.

I would first make sure the passion and the drive, and the love of the kids is the same in all my teachers. Negativity in the program can trickle down on others. I would make sure all my teachers understand the culture they are dealing with each day. So for orientation, I would conduct a diversity workshop.

I would require teachers to take a culture class to educate them about the diversity that fulfills our world.

Designate work more equally between teachers; have a schedule of when to complete projects; start everything earlier.

**6. Please evaluate your program director.**

She puts so much of her time into this program and without her this program wouldn't be as great as it is.

Pat was very good. You can really tell that she cares greatly for our students and teachers. She is easily approachable and very nice. Excellent job.

She is wonderful. She helps when she can and goes through hell to make sure that these kids do well.

I think the program director did a wonderful job. She has a passion for wanting students to survive. She also put in a great deal of time and energy. No one could do the job better.

Patricia Jones is a wonderful director who puts everything into this program. She really cares about both the students and the teachers. We couldn't have a more genuine and caring director.

I think she was great. She took action when needed. She always made sure we were okay. She was very understanding with problems. She has made this a wonderful experience. She tried to make this a fun and exciting experience for students and staff. I give her a lot of respect for doing such a great job.

Ms. Pat Jones is a passionate, caring woman. She cares for these kids. I see it in her eyes and in her spirit. She is a wonderful woman.

I think Miss Pat did a great job communicating and informing teachers through email, team meetings, and during planning periods. I can see her hard work and dedication through the interaction with students, teachers, and parents. She does a GREAT JOB!!

Pat does a good job getting the kids' attention and respect. She's a little disorganized which can lead to being flustered and stressed out, but this is a big task! I'd be stressed too.

**7. Please provide a brief self-evaluation of your performance this summer.**

I think that I would've liked to have more time to go over certain subjects, especially slavery and Native American issues.

I thought that my performance this summer was good considering it was my first time teaching full time and writing lesson plans. I wish that I could have done more for the kids because they all have so much potential and are all very intelligent – they are just good kids.

I did a great job teaching the students. I did research to make sure that the information was correct. I answered all questions and performed well.

I believe that I did a pretty good job this summer. I took it a day at a time. I learned from mistakes and provided students with learning.

I feel that I did a nice job in my classroom. I would like to continue developing my curriculum. I want to focus more on the different intelligences. I need to come up with creative ways to make literature interesting. As far as the teachers, I feel that I did a good job getting along with everyone.

I think for it being my first time I did okay. I know I have some weaknesses but I also think by the end of the program I have made some strengths. I have improved from the beginning to the end.

For a first time teacher I think I gained the respect of all students. Being noted teacher of the summer proved that. They learned and had fun.

I think I did a good job this summer. However, I have some places to improve. I think I surprised myself with the creativity with the lesson plans, management of my classroom, and communicating with teachers. I feel we learned a lot from each other.

I thought I did a good job this summer. Most of the students have respect for me which is important to teachers. I need to start planning lessons earlier instead of the morning I would be teaching.

**Please tell us your thoughts and ideas about Summerbridge Dayton. If there are any suggestions you have concerning this program (ie. what we forgot, what we left out, what we could have done better), let us know in the space provided.**

This program must continue to exist because it provides a necessary and valuable service for the students, whom we must not forget or ignore. I have learned so much about education and myself from this program. I feel bad that I can't come back next year. Thanks for everything Miss Pat!

Summerbridge Dayton is an excellent program for both the teachers and students. I don't have any concerns at this time. I hope I get the opportunity to participate again!

I think that Summerbridge is a good program. Having been through the program and returning as a teacher, it really helped me to sharpen some of my math skills. When I was in SBD, we had a sleep over on campus. I think that should be started up again.

I think that before staff members are hired, they should know about OGT's and the State Standards. I also think staff needs more communication and more teamwork. I also think that there was a better way to keep parents informed so they can help make the teacher's job a little easier.

Everything is great! My only suggestion is gathering a group of more diverse and culturally sound teachers.

I think Summerbridge is a great program. It is wonderful to know that there is a program to help students become better learners. This will definitely help them in their futures, which will make society a better place. It helps students academically but also gives them a place to go, a safe place. I am glad this program exists.

You definitely need a diverse set of teachers who understand what they deal with. If you have never been around backs, never had friends or associates, how can you honestly teach them? “How do you know where I’ve been if you haven’t been where I’ve been, understand where I’m coming from”? – Cornell West

I think this program is wonderful while offering great opportunities to students. I was fortunate to be a part of this great program.

Recruit the teachers earlier instead of relying on word of mouth; ask all ED/EDS teachers to advertise in their classes; Have deadlines for the teachers so everything doesn’t pile up in the last two weeks; provide more structured requirements of what to teach – I didn’t teach a subject area that I was familiar with and sometimes felt uncomfortable.