

**Continuing & Extended Education
Summary of Assessment Accomplishments**

Program Name: Professional & Community Education (PACE) State Fire School	Academic Year: 2006-07
Submitted by: Ann Light, Interim Senior Director	Date: June 5, 2007

Department Service/Learning Outcomes:

Professional and Community Education at CEE is a multi-faceted group whose mission it is to provide personal and professional development opportunities to many different populations in the community. Our programs include: Community Education for children and adults, a wide range of topic-specific conferences for professional development, the National Institute for the Study of Digital Media, the Computer Training Center (for on and off campus students and staff), Business and Industry contract training, online classes, and State Fire School.

For our 2006-07 Assessment Accomplishments, we chose to highlight one assessment project for the State Fire School Program.

State Fire School Service/Learning Outcomes:

Emergency Response Professionals will receive: Quality educational experiences designed to increase knowledge and skill in specific areas of content, which will meet their certification/professional development needs.

State Fire School will:

1. Provide quality, up-to-date instruction on the topics that are critical to the students' effectiveness and success. The classes are planned to meet the needs of the beginning and advanced fire fighter, volunteer, brigade, and professional, members of the paramedic and EMT community, and administrative EMS staff.
2. Deliver this instruction/training to all areas geographical areas in the state of Ohio and beyond.
3. Provide a positive experience at (or about) BGSU, which supports the recruitment and retention initiative.

All of the above will be accomplished:

- a. Using quality presenters
- b. In an environment conducive to learning

Annual Report

1. Learning or Service Outcome

Our assessment activity for 2006-07 centered around service objective #2. State Fire School has traditionally been held only on and around the BGSU main campus. Our goal was to find out if there were other ways (specifically taking training to populations of emergency responders who did not traditionally attend State Fire school) to reach our target of all geographical areas of Ohio and increase overall enrollment.

2. **Assessment Methods**

We utilized the demographic information about our registrants over the prior two years, generated out of our Peopleware registration system. We looked at the geographical area from which each of our registrants came. We analyzed this information by zip code, county, and by specific fire department. Our objective was to find new markets for training, without reducing the number of people/departments who already come to the State Fire Schools at BGSU. We wanted to make sure we weren't simply shifting people from BGSU to other areas for training.

3. **Inferences from Assessments:** We found out that very few (<1% of our registrants at either October or May State Fire Schools came to us from Cincinnati/Hamilton County and surrounding counties prior to 2005.

4. **Action Taken/Program Improvement**

In April 2006, with the cooperation of the Hamilton County Fire Chiefs' Association, held our first Hamilton County Fire School. 86 people attended. 26 fire departments were represented; 15 of these departments had never previously attended any State Fire School class or event. Five of the departments returned to State Fire School after a 3 or more year absence from any State Fire School event.

In April 2007, again with the cooperation and endorsement of the Hamilton County Fire Chiefs' Association, we held our second Hamilton County Fire School. 99 people attended. 39 departments were represented. 13 of these departments were new to Hamilton County Fire School. 7 of these departments had never previously sent anyone to any State Fire School or event.

As a result of the success of these two schools, a new program, Hamilton County Rescue Systems Training Certification, was launched. This is a 6-month certification that includes Rope Rescue, Trench Rescue, Structural Collapse Rescue, Auto Extrication, Water Rescue, and Confined Space Rescue. The class filled before it was advertised, with individuals from 11 departments in the Cincinnati/Hamilton County area.

Contrary to our initial fears, offering classes and training in Hamilton County has enhanced, not diluted the registrations at May State Fire School at BGSU. At the May, 2007 SFS, we received registrations from 12 departments that had never previously attended SFS at BGSU, but who had attended Hamilton County State Fire School. We also received 9 applications for Nationwide Scholarships from the Hamilton County area, where we had previously received 1.

Additionally:

New cooperative relationships in the Hamilton County Area

- Hamilton County Fire Chiefs' Association
- Hamilton County Subcommittee on Training (chiefs and training officers)
- Cincinnati Fire Department - District Chief Tom Lakamp – use of burn building, flashover simulator, RAT building, SCBA, air bottles.
- Cincinnati State University (donated lumber and supplies and rope)
- Scarlett Oaks Vocational school (on training committee)
- Hamilton County USAR
- Woodlawn Armory/National Guard – donate classroom space
- Colerain Fire Department – donates use of Burn Building
- Miami town Auto Parts (Auto Extrication)
- Vogelpohl Fire – donates thermal imaging cameras
- Area fire departments – donated apparatus, tools, and supplies

Future relationships to develop

- University of Cincinnati – credit, cooperative work on bachelor's degree
- Area fire departments for contract training
- Area industrial brigades for contract training
- Fire departments in counties adjacent to Hamilton, Butler, Warren, Preble, Clermont & Brown
- Fire Departments in Kentucky and Indiana

New Classes that were developed in Hamilton County

- Advanced Truck Company (offered at HamCo and May 2007 SFS)
- Engine Company Operations
- Initial Fire Company Tactics and Operations
- RAT
- Rescue Tech Skills Lab (offered at May 2007 SFS)
- Cincinnati Experience – free class offered at May 2007 SFS to discuss the line of duty death of Oscar Armstrong at the CFD (Tom Lakamp and Mike Kirby)

New Lead Instructors from Hamilton County

- Thomas Lakamp, Cincinnati FD
- Mike Kirby, Cincinnati FD
- Kevin McMullen, Cincinnati FD
- Josh Blum, Sycamore Twp. FD
- JJ Cassetta, Orlando FD
- Paul Hokzema, FDNY

Added 24 new assistant instructors from Hamilton County Departments.

Future plans for State Fire School in Hamilton County

- 2008 Hamilton County Fire School
- Rescue Systems Training Certification
- Contract training for municipal and industrial firefighters
- Contract technical rescue training
- Explore credit options for classes
- Continue to work with Hamilton County Fire Chiefs on training needs analysis

Impact on new programs at SFS

As a result of seeing the success of the programs in Hamilton County, Washington Twp. Fire Department in Dublin, Ohio approached us about starting a similar program with them. This has resulted in a partnership between the Washington Twp. Regional Training Center to offer open enrollment classes, contract training and certification. This program officially begins in August, but contract training for Firefighter Survival has already been completed in the Cleveland area.

Demographic analysis showed that there are more than 50 departments in the immediate area that have never attended any SFS event or program. This is a whole new market for SFS.