



## The NC Graduation Project Implementation Training

Mentor Night

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## What is the North Carolina Graduation Project ?

- Designed by NC Department of Instruction
- Used to validate that students have necessary skills, knowledge and concepts to be successful after high school
- Is now a Graduation REQUIREMENT for all students who enroll in North Carolina after Fall of 2006

## Development of NC Graduation Project

- One of 7 states in the United States which require this project for diploma
- Is being carried out throughout the state
- South Carolina and Georgia are soon to follow
- Required in several other states by individual counties
- Is very much like the old "Senior Exit Project" required by CMS
- Was developed to encourage student involvement in the community at large

## Components

- A research paper demonstrating research skills and writing skills.
- A product created through the use of knowledge and skills in a meaningful way to accomplish a goal,
- A portfolio to catalogue/document tasks, record reflective thinking and insights, as well as demonstrate responsibility for learning as work progresses through the entire process, and
- An oral presentation, during which, students become a source of information communicating their project work before a review panel.

## The Research Paper

- 8 – 10 pages in length
- Can be any genre (argumentative, cause and effect, persuasive, comparison and contrast, critical stance)
- Their topic should be viewable from "multiple perspectives"
- The paper must include a student-generated graphic, chart, table, graph, or picture

## Student-Generated Product

- The product should reflect 15 hours of work or service
- Can be tangible or intangible
- Tangible products must be made from raw materials or built from spare parts
- Products should reflect academic stretch
- They must be correlated to the research topic
- Students can opt to complete an "experience" such as community service, job shadowing, interning, apprenticeships or personal growth exercises
- If students choose an experience, they must have artifacts and evidence to authenticate the experience
- The mentor signs off on the hours devoted to the product development

## Presentation

- Students will give presentations during the Fall of 2009
- Students will present the overall topic and research to a presentation panel
- Students will need to include references to the product in the presentation
- Students will be expected to reference the mentor's help, guidance and support in the presentation
- Presentations will need to include visual aids
- Students will be expected to answer extemporaneous questions from the panel

## Portfolio

- Contains evidence of the student's journey through the graduation project process
- Contains journal entries about the experience
- Contains photographic and written logs that document the student's progress
- Contains copies of rough drafts, and original paper
- Contains letters to mentors, and presentation panel regarding the project/product
- Needs to employ technology (tables/ charts/ graphs)

# MENTORING

## The Goals of Mentoring

The goals of Graduation Project Mentoring focus on the following areas:

- Academic achievement
  - Employment
- Career preparation
- Personal growth

## Who is a Mentor?

- A positive role model involved in one-on-one partnership with a student
- Someone who encourages students to develop to their fullest potential
- A friend, coach, motivator, advisor, teacher
- Someone who supports the student through the NC Graduation Project

## Mentoring Guidelines

- The mentor may not be a member of the student's immediate family.
- The mentor can act as a primary resource for the research paper
- The mentor supports the student to help design and complete the student-generated product
- The mentor assists with establishing objectives and documenting activities

### Mentors' Role

- Providing student with expertise and knowledge regarding topic
- Lend guiding hand in product selection and development
- Overseeing student completion of project
- Providing documentation of completion
- Assist student in preparing for presentation through practice and pointers

### Supporting Students

- Begin by working with students on topic refinement and selection
- Students should also begin thinking about their product and what form it will take (experience or tangible product)
- Consider working with students after school or before school in the school library (**you must be registered as a volunteer in order to work with students at the school**)
- Remember to guide students, not do their projects for them
- If you experience problems, contact the student's Graduation Project Coordinator or Academic Advisor

### FORMS and DOCUMENTATION

#### Product Description and Approval Form

- describes the product in detail
- describes the form the product can take:  
  
art work; photographs; journals; DVD; CD; power point; models
- has previously been submitted to Graduation project coordinator

### FORMS and DOCUMENTATION

#### The Graduation Project Mentor Log

- used to document meetings with student
- includes date and signature boxes for verification
- is crucial to portfolio completion
- found on page 7 of Mentor handbook and is also included in the student manual
- can be downloaded from CMS website

### Product Pointers

- The main point of the product is to fulfill a need that the student sees as an outgrowth of their research.
- Students will use the product to demonstrate learning from research
- Students will need to be able to relate their product to real world situations.
- Students will need to be sure that they have paid close attention to detail in the development of the product.
- Should be able to meet a "need"

### Product Pointers

- Students must be the sole creators of any model, building it without the aid of previously manufactured models.
- If students choose some type of community service or job shadowing, the mentor should keep records of time spent as evidence and documentation of student's participation in the process.
- Students may keep scrap books of participation as their product evidence.

## GRADING

- Each component of the graduation project is graded using a rubric
- Rubrics for each component are found at the back of the mentor handbook
- Students must meet satisfactory levels on all components of the project

## Graduation Project Questions?



## Helpful Websites

- [www.butlerhigh.net](http://www.butlerhigh.net)
- [www.cms.k12.nc.us/programs/GradProj](http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/programs/GradProj)
- Be sure to fill out the CMS Volunteer form on the CMS website
- E – mail me at [m.teal@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:m.teal@cms.k12.nc.us)