



in our own backyard

THE HIDDEN PROBLEM OF
CHILD FARMWORKERS IN AMERICA
<http://www.ourownbackyard.org>

Part III: What Can Be Done?

Conexiones Community Outreach Program

Description of a program, currently operating in Arizona, designed to teach technology and communications skills to children of migrant workers.

Source: <http://conexiones.asu.edu/about.htm>



Conexiones, an ambitious and innovative community-outreach program, is helping the children in under served communities gain a high-quality education. Conexiones is the product of work undertaken by the Applied Learning Technologies Institute at Arizona State University. Its primary aim is creating technology-infused educational spaces for young learners. With its implementation, students can master the technology in order to become proficient media content users and developers. In turn, its beneficiaries are able to incorporate this knowledge into their personal and academic lives. Conexiones offers these disadvantaged young people the opportunity to use their creativity in ways that make learning relevant and exciting. With state-of-the-art, yet readily accessible, technology at hand, students can master a variety of media skills. All of these are connected to their education and future professional lives. This entails creating works that require analysis, verbal skills and the ability to differentiate fact from opinion; finally, they have the opportunity to use their projects to educate a wider audience about pertinent topics, i.e., peer pressure, educational perseverance, smoking and underrepresented cultural perspectives.



Founded in 1992, Conexiones originally sought to reach its goals within the migrant community; presently, it now strives to benefit other frequently underserved groups in both rural and urban districts. These include the homeless, Native Americans and people from low-income sectors. In addition to helping students unlock their imaginations, Conexiones assists them in becoming adept at primary research. This is vital as research is one of the key components of a well-rounded education, and it can be applied to problem solving within their own communities.

The New Conexiones

Conexiones is in the process of re-organizing to meet the needs of a wider population of students. The program will be moving from a summer ASU based program to a school site based afterschool program. There will still be opportunities to interact with ASU staff and visit the Tempe campus, but the majority of the instruction will take place in schools across the state. Conexiones will Provide:

1. Guidance in setting up a program;
2. Recruiting and marketing materials;
3. On site, ASU based and online Professional development for the instructor;
4. An in-depth curriculum;
5. A collaborative environment for students and instructors;
6. A gallery to publish student work;
7. Information and assistance for entering film festivals and contests; and
8. Scholarship information