

Inspiration Through Collaboration

Strengthening Bonner Programs by Facilitating Strategic Conversation

Arielle Pollock and Jamie Zale

Workshop Description

This session will provide an outlet for schools to support each other's growth while discussing the various ways in which the different programs handle similar obstacles. It will consist of an activity that allows schools to examine their challenges, brainstorm solutions, and reflect as a group on strategies they can incorporate into their Bonner Programs. The conversation will be guided by the unique needs of the programs present at the workshop. This session is designed to serve as a time for collaboration of ideas to overcome programs' obstacles that can be brought back to their campus, inspire discussion between schools, and provide the opportunity for schools to form new connections that strengthen the Bonner Network.

Overview

There are various ways in which different programs handle similar obstacles. We want to provide an outlet for schools to support each other's growth and create a system of Bonners helping fellow Bonners. We are proposing a session to be held at Bonner Congress that allows schools to collaborate on challenges they are facing. It will have congress representatives come together to discuss their concerns and inspire each other based on past successes. The session will have schools unite to overcome their unique challenges. It will consist of a collaborative activity that allows all schools to examine the challenges their programs are facing, brainstorm solutions with other schools, and reflect as a group on strategies they can incorporate into their Bonner Programs.

Learning Outcomes

- The session serves as a time for collaboration of ideas to overcome programs' obstacles that are brought back to their campus.
- The activity inspires discussion to flow naturally between schools that may not have worked together previously.
- The time acts as an eye-opening experience that allows schools to realize other programs are struggling with problems similar to their own.
- The event provides the opportunity for schools to form new connections strengthen the Bonner Network.

Materials

- Paper
- Pen

- Question worksheet

How to Prepare

This workshop is organized around leading participants through a series of activities and group exercises to initiate thought and dialogue on gender. While as the facilitator you may be informing, your most important job will be to guide participants through the exercises. Also be sure to read the workshop carefully and prep all materials needed for the activities.

Brief Outline

The session is expected to run an hour and fifteen minutes. Below is the time each stage should run. We accounted for extra time for transitions between stages and any unexpected delays.

<i>Introduction/icebreaker:</i>	10 minutes
<i>One:</i>	5 minutes
<i>Three:</i>	20 minutes
<i>Half:</i>	20 minutes
<i>All:</i>	10-15 minutes minutes

Part One -

- we will have an icebreaker to introduce each student. Here they will go around and say their name, university, year, and fun fact about themselves.
- Approximately time: 10 minutes

Part Two -

- Second, we allow students time to discuss as a school the difficulties they have faced within their program. We will pose three questions and have the students record their responses as a school. This stage will create an open space for students to access the strengths and weaknesses of their programs. The question will be placed in the description of the workshop to encourage schools to talk among themselves before the activity if they are only sending one representative.
 - What is something that makes your Bonner Program unique?
 - What is a particular strength of your Bonner Program?
 - What is an aspect of your Bonner Program that needs improvement?
 - How has your Bonner Program tackled this challenge in the past?
- Approximately time: 5 minutes

Part Three -

- Go into a corner designated based off there Bonner Program size. We will have each corner labeled with Bonner Program size, less than 20 students, 21-40 students, 41-60 students, and 61 or more students. They will then separate into their respective corners.

From there they will discuss their answers to the questions above. This allows them to address their challenges in a small group setting and problem solve together. The focal point during this portion of the activity will be stimulating conversation. This stage is where the students will receive the most detailed feedback and ideas based on the concerns and strengths of their program. It will serve as an assurance that each school will have the opportunity to have their voice heard.

- Approximately time:20 minutes

Part Four -

- we will combine the groups further to so that the room is divided into two halves. The two-quarters that are filled with bigger Bonner Programs will work together. The small programs will also be placed together. Here students will be encouraged to discuss the concerns that were not solved in their smaller groups. Additionally, this time will be used to share topics that were of importance to the schools in each small group. This stage provides the opportunity to open dialogue in a larger setting to increase the ideas being shared.
- Approximately time: 20 minutes

Part Five-

- the session will conclude with a whole group discussion addressing concerns not met during the activity. This stage will further dialogue on topics previously addressed as well as reflecting on the activity as a whole. One way to do this is to pose the questions:
 - What is the most useful thing you have learned during this session?
 - Is there anything you have learned that you feel can benefit other?
 - Do you have any concerns that are still unaddressed?
 - Is there anything you have learned that you could bring back to your campus?
- Approximately time:10 minutes