

MEMO

From: Jennifer G. Bailey

WAEC VALIDATION OF LEARNSCAPE—RESULTS AND ANALYSIS OF THE 2010 TDEP FULL-PILOT

April 14, 2011

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to let you know that analysis of the WAEC scores received in early April 2011 from our partners at Tubman University, Liberia demonstrates that the Technology-Driven Education Project (TDEP), which used the Internet-delivered Learnscope curriculum was highly effective in improving the Mathematics and English scores of 144 pre-college Liberian students and facilitated their admission to Tubman University in September 2010.

These affirming results provide credible evidence that TDEP has the potential to rapidly and cost-effectively elevate educational performance and support workforce preparation in Liberia and other global venues.

Results Summary

- Overall, after TDEP, all students raised their *WAEC scores an average of three levels in mathematics from 8-5 (50-74%); and an average of one level in English from 7-6 (66-74%).
- Significantly, females demonstrated even more remarkable improvements when we broke out the scores by gender:
 - Average Female Post-TDEP, WAEC scores rose 3 levels in mathematics from 8 to 5 (50-74%), and 2 levels in English from 7 to 5 (66-79%);
 - Details are provided in the attached newsletter.

Discussion

The Bailey Institute-Tubman University Partnership achieved these outstanding results despite substantial challenges. Should some of these challenges be removed or ameliorated, we can expect even more substantial results from the TDEP program using the Learnscope curriculum.

Variables that may have impacted performance on the 2010 TDEP pilot programs:

- 93% of 146 participants and some TU staff had not previously used computers.
- Students began the self-paced, Internet-delivered Learnscope courses in English and Mathematics after just two weeks of computer training.
- All Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions were conducted virtually from the US by the Bailey Institute staff, 4500 miles away.
- Everything was new. The learning curve was steep and the timeline for project completions relatively short (12 weeks).
- TU staff were required to master management components which such as online registration of students and assessment of progress. This required weeks of coaching and mentoring while keeping the sessions running.

- **The Schedule:** With 30 computers in the lab and 144 students to serve, TDEP computer lab sessions were scheduled 6 days a week for 9 hours a day including one hour for lunch. A preferred schedule would be shorter sessions with more frequent weekly access to the lab.
- Cultural challenges posed by the introducing completely new technologies, new methods of learning, vocabulary and teaching styles are significant and cannot be minimized.
- The personal sacrifices such as setting aside the time for this training versus meeting work and family obligations should not be underestimated.

Factors that contributed to the remarkable Post-TDEP results documented herein:

- Commitment from the top--Presidential buy-in and support from Dr. Elizabeth Davis-Russell, President of Tubman University;
- The availability of TU's 30-unit computer lab with Internet access and a dedicated Project Leader, Michael Topor;
- Weekly Bailey Institute-Tubman University transatlantic meetings using GoToMeeting virtual conferencing;
- Weekly reports, next steps, corrections and modifications;
- Dedicated training and mentoring;
- The trans-Atlantic partnership developed a strategic plan, consistently set solid timelines and met key deadlines;
- Multi-level project ownership at TU (President, Dean, Director of Student Development, Computer-lab staff and assistants);
- Genuine excitement for TDEP among students and staff;
- Urgent and tangible goals—144 students saw this as a unique opportunity to qualify for university admission and change their lives through higher education ;
- Training of Trainers (TOT) session that gave staff access to innovative digital technology ;
- The prospect of using the results of the TDEP 2010 pilot programs to frame a global model developed at Tubman University.

May I express my enormous thanks to all who believed in this innovative venture and contributed to its success. Now, we can proceed at full throttle, to change the lives of millions world-wide.

I welcome your comments and feedback at: baileyjg@gmail.com or Phone: 301-733-9003; 202-297-0508