

LINDA – Fieldnotes – Monday, October 08, 2007

Subject: Conversation with Veronica Holly

Location: Hallway of Zankel, outside of Accounts Payable

Time: 3:00-3:15

I spot Veronica Holly on my way from the women's restroom to the dept office

She is speaking with one of the women who work in Accounts Payable

- the woman is taking a class here
- she expresses admiration for her, at her age
- the woman is having some trouble, and Veronica is providing support

I commiserate with the idea that a campus like TC that prides itself on being welcoming to returning students is especially hard

The Gordon campus is closed today, so she's here at the Equity Campaign office and at Accounts payable. While we're talking a young woman comes to find her, who had stopped by her office trying to find her. Also someone calls on her blackberry, and she says, "a teacher" before answering and asking where she is and if she can call her back.

Suggestion for supplemental Ed:

- need to pull in the people already doing out-of-school learning, informal education

Harlem project:

- brother runs a Beacon center, funded by list of acronyms with NY in it
  - o gives me a mini-lesson on Beacon initiative, which is not HCZ (I had asked if the center were affiliated)
  - o Beacon initiative introduced under Dinkins, and various agencies take lead in opening centers at schools
- She is also thinking of a more grassroots group
- also individuals
- I tell her that from what I hear of her research I am interested in parent involvement, how parents learn to advocate
- She doesn't seem happy with me mentioning the home schooling group
- Says she can take me to her brother's group
- Suggests going to United Way, who funds a lot of these groups
  - o What they think of parent involvement may not be what her brother is doing
  - o E.g. opening the gym for Ecuadorian parents to play soccer, with wives and children there; this may not be what United Way thinks they are funding

Asks how I am categorizing groups

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- I say I'm not doing it yet, haven't seen enough
- She gives example of school; she calls the soccer a school-based activity, because this is what schools should be doing
- Her other categories: church-based, Y
  - o I say this is what we want to find out: how the people doing it are categorizing it
  - o She says she thinks that's how her brother would think of it
  - o I say it makes less sense for the researcher to come up with the category
  - o She reiterates that I should find out how United Way thinks of it
  
- I tell her my problem is it's easy for people not to call me back
- She says she knows lots of people
- She is busy for the next couple of weeks, the last week of October is good
- I tell her I'll email her in two weeks, she says in a week for the following week

[This reaction against the home-schooling is very strong, pointing to an investment in public education.]