

LINDA – Fieldnotes – Thursday, October 11, 2007

Subject: Conversation with Mariana

Location: Telephone in office

Time: 6:39-6:56pm

Mariana called me on Monday night, around 8:30pm, to ask me to accompany her and Dr. Gordon on Friday to a meeting with the president of Rockland Community College to ask for support for their project. Specifically, they want students to volunteer with their parent education classes. I was to call her to let her know where to pick me up from the train station. I called her tonight, and we cleared up some misunderstandings.

Mariana wanted me to take over the Harlem piece of her project. She is doing a pilot study of 10-15 families in 3 areas: Rockland County, Harlem, and Morris County.

We began by cancelling the meeting tomorrow. I offered the times that the train arrives in Suffern, New York. She suggested that I go to a meeting with a church instead, so that I could see what was happening. [I'm still not sure what that is about.] She said that she needs to go to Ed's house first, and go with him, and that she doesn't know her way around Rockland. I told her that would be fine, I was surprised when she asked me to go, since that would be a high-level meeting. She continued by talking about the project.

Below are some pieces from our conversation, typed in real time:

M: One piece is in Rockland, over there, and Fabiola is going to be doing it  
The other thing is in Harlem. And when I'm going to do that in Harlem, *you* are going to be doing it. ... What is going to happen is, with our grant, we are going to get money for you. Research, what is it called, assistant research?

L: I don't have a lot of time [explain about other project]

M: Part of the grant, what's going to happen is,  
Have to find research assistant  
This person is going to be,  
IUME, they they they are *already* involved with Harlem's Children's Zone  
Veronica, Veronica was talking about how she is working with children  
From that group there are thousands of kids  
We just need 10 or 15  
Whoever this person is working with  
We are going to be ?? reach with those 10 or 15 families  
As we do this,  
I *know* that they are going to have results because I *know* that  
As we get results, we are going to be going for more funding to scale  
Basically that is what is going to happen

118P

119P

353

Next week,

I'm going to be meeting with Nancy Train

She is the vice president of Columbia University

She is the person who is going to be developing the relationships between the university and the schools

This program REACH is working with schools

From inside the schools

Using their resources

Using NCLB guidelines

They ask specifically for stuff that ? NCLB

That the school should be doing but they are not, they are not

That way when we train the parents to influence the school

The school will be ??

Columbia is also going to be consulting the schools

You see?

By that time, we are going to be ?

What I'm doing now, I'm doing in Morris County

L: Where?

M: Basically we are picking 3 pilots

Going to be implemented in 3 diff environments

Morris County is urban env

Mainly Anglo American

The kids who are failing are mostly Latino and African American children

The other env

New York, Rockland,

Suburban,

Mostly African American

Harlem, basically urban

Both African American and Latino but I believe mainly African American

L: if you're looking for someone for next year

If I focus now on Morris County and Pomona

Rockland County

2008 we will say we begin Harlem

Maybe Veronica

She's already working with kids

And she's at IUME

She would be a good way to find somebody

Ok ok

L: I'm going to see Veronica next week

M: Can you ask her [to keep an eye out for a research assistant]

L: [Veronica will be good at that,] I'm just learning

M: *We're* learning

L: [hope that Mariana finds lots of student volunteers]