

# Rockford



A GYO student (Florence Johnson on the left) who is receiving help from math teacher Teresa Heden (on the right) in our Developmental Math Workshop class.

The Rockford project is one of the few that has seen a change of partners since the planning grant was awarded in 2006; it was in the summer of this year that National Louis University signed on as the degree-granting partner. Because of the extraordinary commitment of the community and Hands that Help, the community organization, and the strong support of the other partners, the project has stayed together, its cohort at full strength, and in the Fall of 2007, a full range of classes are being offered.

The partner organizations are:

**Hands that Help**  
**Rockford School District**  
**Rock River Training**  
**Rock Valley College**  
**National Louis University**

The community organization is the lead organization and fiscal agent on the grant.

The Rockford GYO project has gone through a period of difficulty in finding a University partner, but we are very proud that the other partners stuck together and continued to develop the basis for the project; and we are also proud that the project's 44 teacher candidates have kept the faith, concentrating on tasks they could accomplish while the project was in flux. We now have a great relationship with our new University partner, National Louis, and we believe that the project, despite its late start, is stronger for having gone through this effort. In the interim, candidates have made great strides through classes at Rock Valley College.

Much of the energy of the project to date has been focused on math, using a dedicated cadre of certified math instructors for classroom and individualized instruction. On the other hand, candidates are preparing for their future as teachers in Rockford through an Urban Education seminar series led by Anthony Rosilez, formerly on the faculty at UCLA. Candidates have created their own Peer Council, with a mission statement. The consortium has also started to produce a regular newsletter, featuring candidate profiles.



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(RockRiverTrng.)  
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Dr. M. Kuzniewski  
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D. Kuehl  
(RockValleyCollege)  
D. Simpson (RVC)

**The Cohort:** The Rockford Cohort has 44 active participants, including 9 men. Two-thirds are African-American; their median age is 38. 33 candidates had some college experience before entering the program. 36 are employed, 31 full-time; 24 have dependent children in their households.