



## Parent Leadership Training Creates School Advocates

By Susan Garza  
Citizen Reporter

GCIPL, the Governor's Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership, is taking applications now for their institute, and recruiting heavily for participants from the Berea area.

Since 1997, the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, through GCI

PL (originally known as CIPL) has been training and supporting parents, caregivers, and mentors "as reform advocates in their schools."

GCIPL training prepares adults who have children in the school system by giving them information and skills to be active in improving stu-

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dents achievement in Kentucky's public schools. The related skills include how to engage other parents, planning, and how to work in groups.

In 2012, Kim Saderholm became a CIPL fellow. She said she applied at the suggestion of Charlotte Haycraft, the GEAR UP person at Berea Community School. Kim said that the training was fantastic, and it was an empowering experience. Kim was one of the four parents from Berea who finished the program in 2012.

Although Kim said the experience was a positive one, she also said people who are considering it should be aware that there is a substantial time commitment following the training. Kim said the program was well run; the leaders were experienced and believed in the program. In January 2013, the Berea parents spearheaded a PT3 (Parents and Teachers Talking Together) meeting. Kim said in the process they realized that parents and teachers really want the same thing for the school, and this was an opportunity for all the voices to be heard and considered.

According to Lutricia Woods (Community Support Coordinator for the Prichard Committee), parents who complete the program develop projects that go in different directions, but all the projects have an academic focus. One project led to an outdoor classroom. In another school the project resulted in more hands on science. The parents asked for use of a storage closet where they set up rolling carts with hands on science equipment that was made available to the school's science teachers.

Sue Christian became a CIPL fellow when her children were in school; she is now a Family Engagement Specialist. Her CIPL team developed a project at Owsley County High School (grades seven through twelve). Their project was based on the book "Hunger Games" and was called "Hunger Games, Let the Games

Begin". They used the "Hunger Games" theme to teach across curriculum, using it in science, language arts, social studies, and math. They used concepts from the book, like "muttations" (dogs changed to fierce beasts) to teach about mutations and did plant mutations. In language arts they developed lessons about propaganda for the seventh and eighth grades, and used posters, and "dress your tribute". And because the school has an archery program, they had lessons about projection and gauging speed. In social studies they developed lessons about resources based on the fact that the map of Panem in the book is a lot like the U. S. in terms of resources.

Rochelle Garrett (Family Partnership Director, Partners for Education at Berea College) said that this project received an Honorable Mention. When projects are evaluated the GCIPL scoring rubric gives higher credit for projects that address more than one content area and / or more than one grade.

GCIPL is recruiting applicants who would like to take part in their efforts to enhance the academic achievement of students in Kentucky schools. In this area, GCIPL will be held in partnership with The Partners for Education at Berea College. Rochelle works with Family Engagement Specialist toward better outcomes, the same focus as GCIPL.

Adults with children in the schools are being recruited from Berea Community, other Madison County schools, and the schools of 18 other Appalachian counties (see [gcipl.org](http://gcipl.org) for a complete list). People who would like to be considered for the leadership institute have until April 30th to apply. If you are considering applying, the first requirement is to be available for the six days of training which will be held on September 12-13, October 10-11, and November 7-8, at the Natural Bridge State Park. For more information, visit [gcipl.org](http://gcipl.org) or contact Lutricia Woods, Community Support Coordinator for the Prichard Committee at 606-524-4560 or [llwoods@bellsouth.net](mailto:llwoods@bellsouth.net)