EVALUATIVE SUMMARY OF PEER MEDIATION TRAINING FOR NEW COLLEGE STUDENTS IN DECEMBER 2013 AND JANUARY 2014

There were at total of nine students who participated in the training. There were two new males, ages 20 and 21 and both are in their 3rd year at New College. The other male student had participated last year as well and wanted to assist again this year. He is a 4th year student and age 21.

The other six students were females; one 18 year old a first year student, two 19 year olds who are both in their second year; one 20 year old in her third year, and two in their fourth year ages 21 and 23. All are Caucasian except for one who is African American.

Seven students returned evaluations. The other two never did, and perhaps it was because they had to leave early. Of the seven, 4 indicated the overall presentation was excellent. The other 3 indicated it was very good. This rating is based on a 5 point scale with 5 being excellent and 1 being poor. The other numbers represented very good, good, and average. The rate of satisfaction for the materials including handouts and videos/DVD was as follows: three students gave them a 5, as in excellent; three students gave a 4 as in very good, and one gave a 3 for average. All of the media has been in my personal library for over 20 years; some more recent than others and newer, up to date DVD’s are needed. While the message is still pertinent, more 21st century relevancy is necessary. We hope to make this possible with increased funding now that we have a 501 C3 under the aegis of the New College Foundation’s Sarasota World Affairs Council of which the Peer Mediation Program is a component.

The following comments are taken directly from students observations about what they found most helpful:

1. “The practice with real life scenarios was particularly helpful.” I think viewing an actual, full length mediation, (or as close as possible,) would have been helpful. We mostly got a big picture. Also, most of the examples were harder to apply to college or high school though the “Don’t Pick on Me” video was somewhat helpful.”

2. “Definitely the role playing practices. 1000 % the role playing practice. The videos were also worthy of mention even though they were older, were considerably relevant. “

3. “The most helpful component to the crash course was the day to day relevance of conflicts that necessitate mediation. Since the materials were generally very serious problems which continue to affect the world, it was very engaging and philosophically stimulating. Much of the material was a
little dated; however, I could appreciate the historical lens of things such as 1990’s race relations. “

4. “The practice mediation sessions were very helpful. I also benefitted from some of the handouts with the correct mediation procedure. “

5. “Practicing mock mediations to help improve skills.”

6. “Understanding the steps I can take to resolve conflict between people. The strategies we learned will definitely be useful to me as I continue to run into conflict. I thought the videos were a little outdated but were still helpful in identifying different kinds of bullying.”

7. “I really enjoyed the video presentations and found them very useful in a thought provoking way. But I wish they were more modern. I kind of wondered whether I might not be getting as accurate a view from the videos because of their datedness. I still thought they were really thought provoking though. I also appreciated the cultural, racial and religious nuances. “

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

“Doing more mock mediations starting from the first day to gain practice while learning underlying concepts.”

“I am very appreciative of Dr. Deri for giving this peer mediation course. I hope she will be able to help the club in the mediations at the high schools for a long time.”

“I greatly look forward to continuing mediation. The relevance draws me to this kind of work and I hope to use these skills in more real world scenarios.”

“I’m really appreciative of this life experience and am really looking forward to implementing & sharing it in the future.”