



Success of Returning Students to School Districts

The Beacon School is pleased to report that at the midpoint of the 2006-2007 school year, twenty-four students have successfully transitioned back to their "home" school districts. "We are pleased that we have been able to help so many students with intense needs return to their regular school setting", stated Dr. Kenneth Koberlein, Education Director at The Beacon School. "We are confident that many of these students will be more successful than ever because of the skills they learned from The Beacon School's programs on how to improve school performance".

Educational research shows that a small segment of students (estimates range from two to five percent of the student population) present great challenges to our public

schools. Although small in number, challenging students place enormous strains not only on classroom teachers and school administrators, but also on classmates whose education they often disrupt.

*4 students receive
high school diplomas
20 students return to
their home schools
~ January 19, 2007*

School staff time may become occupied with the intense needs of this group of students. The overall climate or culture of a school may also diminish because of the challenging behaviors of these children and adolescents. "The result can be frustration,

frustration for classroom students, school staff and our community," remarked Dr. Koberlein.

The Beacon School's Special Education and Alternative Education programs are designed to actively partner with the student, his/her family and school, to develop strengths and to achieve positive outcomes. For students *not* experiencing school success, this is a positive alternative to potential expulsion or dropping out. We are quite proud of the success of our returning students," said Dr. Koberlein. Currently, The Beacon School has 150 students enrolled in grades 3 - 12; 90 students participate in the Special Education Program and 60 students participate in the Alternative Education Program.

People Who Have Changed Lives Benefit Gala



Paul Andrews

The Beacon School's Licensed and Certified Drug and Alcohol Addictions Counselor, Paul Andrews, was eloquently honored on May 10, 2007, at a Benefit Gala recognizing "People Who Have Changed Lives!" Held at

the Hilton in East Brunswick, NJ and sponsored by Liberty Community Development Corporation, Mr. Andrews was among six individuals to be selected for their hard work and dedication which has significantly impacted individuals and the community. Governor Jon Corzine, Mayors Corey Booker and Sharon Robinson-Briggs, and News 12 Reporter Alvina Alston, were among the guests attending this prestigious evening. Mr. Andrews has worked for more than 12 years counseling adolescents and adults on substance abuse. His previous work involved solving legal, employment, vocational and

housing issues, helping to reduce recidivism among the paroled population. Currently he volunteers as a hearing officer for the Jersey City Superior Family Court in NJ, resolving and preventing juvenile offenses. Mr. Andrews' program of individual, group and family drug and alcohol counseling at The Beacon School has proven to be a positive influence on the behaviors of those students at risk or recovering from chemical abuse / dependency. Mr. Andrews is also the team coordinator of SAP - Student Assistance Program which was recently put into place at The Beacon School.

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Youth Crimes and Gangs Symposium Held

On Tuesday evening, February 27, 2007, East Stroudsburg Area School District, Pleasant Valley School District, Pocono Mountain School District, Stroudsburg School District, East Stroudsburg University and The Beacon School, collaboratively conducted a Symposium on Youth Crimes and Gangs. Over one-hundred school district administrators, school board members, school district security and Monroe County Police, attended this four and a half hour professional conference at the Shawnee Inn and Conference Center.

With the developing presence of youth gangs in our community and schools, the coordinators of this event all agreed on the need to seek sensible and sensitive techniques on addressing current challenges and prevention measures. Key presenter, Criminal Justice Consultant, Officer Michael Leonard, focused on topics designed to create awareness, identify resources, gather and report intelligence information and consider legal and policy implications. With Officer

Leonard's extensive background as an Investigator and Supervision Officer with the New York City Probation Department, he enlightened the audience with a slide show and criminal statistics on gang identifiers, territory determinators, organization rituals and youth crimes. He challenged everyone to take responsibility and proactively be the ones to make a difference for our youth and our community.

Positive action remarks were made by attending representatives from the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, Monroe County District Attorney's Office, Pike County District Attorney's Office, House of Representatives District 176 - Representative Mario Scavello's Office, House of Representatives District 189 - the Honorable John Siptroth's Office and the State Police. Following dinner, break-out



Criminal Justice Consultant Officer Michael Leonard

sessions were held for the four attending Monroe County School Districts and Delaware Valley School District to discuss follow-up planning ideas on how the schools can best manage some of the issues presented.

The creation of an on-going consortium was discussed, to allow school districts to continue to collaboratively address the challenges facing our communities' schools

Graduation 2007

The Beacon School's Graduation ceremonies will take place the week of June 10, 2007, pending confirmation of the last day of school. A late morning commencement is planned with lunch following the program. Parents, the graduates' families and school district representatives, are invited to attend this special event. Fifteen graduates are expected to receive their diplomas from their home school districts. More details on graduation day will be provided soon.

Teacher and Bus Driver Training

The Beacon School's Nationally Certified Crises Prevention / Intervention Trainer, Mr. David Zettlemyer and Director of Education, Dr. Kenneth Koberlein, presented several training programs to regional school districts.

Frequently, school district bus drivers are faced with challenging students while transporting adolescent passengers to and from school. The Beacon School's three-hour Bus Driver Training Program provides guidelines for therapeutic interaction and communications. Verbal de-escalation strategies are reviewed as well as progressive disciplinary methods. The goal is to give bus drivers alternative measures to follow for the least restrictive and intrusive

approach in managing their student passengers.

The Beacon School's Effective Classroom Intervention Training Program is a two-hour program designed to give teachers proactive strategies for preventing crisis situations. Types of classroom disruptors are discussed along with the positive and negative results on handling each scenario. Verbal de-escalation techniques and therapeutic interaction and communication measures are provided for managing challenging students in the least restrictive approach.

The Beacon School's Training Department provides a variety of training programs. For more information please contact The Beacon School at 420-8601.

Our Purpose

To provide our educators and community partners with information on the latest services of the Beacon School. For further information please contact:

**The
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