



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
H. Martin Lancaster, President

January 14, 2008

MEMORANDUM

**TO: Community-Based Organization Directors
Community College Basic Skills Directors**

**FROM: Bob Allen, Coordinator
NCCC Literacy Resource Center**

SUBJECT: Literacy Ambassador Program Evaluations

Enclosed for your review are the participant evaluations for the second Literacy Ambassador program held in December 2007.

As a result of these evaluations and your support, we will offer another Ambassador training program on **June 6 – 7, 2008**.

You may now call Jannai Johnson at (919) 807-7185 to register your student and staff. Spaces are limited. There is no registration cost and lodging/meals are free.

Please review these comments and share with your staff.

Attachments: (1)

cc: Dr. Randy Whitfield
Presidents
Continuing Education Administrators

CC08-006
Email & Paper Copies

Literacy Ambassador Program Evaluations

**Comments from participants at
Caraway Conference Center on
December 14 – 15, 2007**

**“Every literacy program
needs a student
ambassador”**

**“...clearly a
powerful experience
for our students.”**

**“It is really good to be
able to give back to the
community! To be able
to represent a
school/program and help
them and in return the
school helps you. Thank
you. I can’t say thank you
enough”**



**Students learn how to tell their story, improve their
self-confidence, and become a local Ambassador for literacy
programs in North Carolina.**

**Register NOW for the June 6 -7, 2008 program.
Call Jannai Johnson at (919) 807-7185.**

**PROGRAM
IS FREE!**

**Literacy Resource Center/Basic Skills
North Carolina Community College System**

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|--|---|
| Name of Training Session: Literacy Ambassador Workshop Evaluation | |
| Presenter(s): Bob Allen; Jannai Johnson; Janet Bauer; Brooksie Harrington; Toni Cordell | |
| Location: Caraway Conference Center & Camp | Date(s): Friday & Saturday, December 14 & 15, 2007 |

Student's Comments

- **I've had an awesome time; it was a life changing opportunity for me! I would love to come back next year!**
- **I was very comfortable in the family atmosphere. Very good movie; everybody was very cool and inspirational. Everyone cared. It was very enjoyable. I hope to talk to these people again.**
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- **The training was wonderful. Thank you. I liked benefits of program.**
- **This was a great experience. I learned every aspect of public speaking with excellent speaking examples to guide you through the program. I really enjoyed the speaking examples.**
- **What I would tell other people to get them to come: It will help you to reach your goals and improve your public speaking. It will push you forward to reach out and help others.**
- **The program was great. The presenters were good. The stories were extraordinary – moving, heartfelt. The training was appropriate. The testimonies were unbelievable. Honest, genuine, and great inspiration; Powerful time well spent; I would do it again. No problem – I would be honored to return. Thank you!**
- **For me to talk to another person to get them in this program, I would first tell them how it worked for me: how I learned to speak; how I learned to love more; how it turned my life around and now I am able to talk to my Higher power. I am a born again person.**
- **I really enjoyed coming to the conference center to Literacy Ambassador Workshop. I have had a great time here. I think I got something out of it. I am very proud of myself. I have a lot of courage, confidence and potential. I have potential in my self. I will never give up!**
- **Self-esteem techniques; overcoming obstacles; just don't stop the program! Thank you so much!**
- **I enjoyed it very much and would like to come back.**
- **It is thoroughly enjoyed this workshop (retreat). Actually, this experience for me has been probably the best "training" or workshop I have ever been to. I strongly encourage all fellow instructors, as well as my director, to come to this workshop with future ambassadors. It is so wonderful to help students in this environment so intensely.**
- **I would like to say to everybody to come, it is very inspirational, and helps people to accomplish goals, and to know how to speak in public. Good job!**
- **Jonathan, you need to come here and live the wonderful experience that I have. At first, I**

was scared because I didn't know anyone, but then everything changed. All of us became like family. We learned from each other and our different styles when speaking. We learned that we have to speak from our hearts if we want to be listened to, and we learned other techniques to avoid nervousness. I have learned a lot from this interesting program. You should try it.

- It is a wonderful experience, anyone who has the opportunity should grasp it. It is really good to be able to give back to the community! To be able to represent a school/program and help them and in return the school helps you. Thank you. I can't say thank you enough God Bless.
- Come on and I'm going to talk to you about adult literacy.
- To meet other people who understand the challenges of low basic skills
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- It is a great experience for both mentors and ambassadors. It builds a community of diverse learners and helps everyone understand the various programs with Basic Skills. The activities help to create, articulate storytellers to promote our programs.
- I would tell others that are going through Basic Skills that this is a very uplifting experience and you will leave here with a different understanding of certain things and of yourself. Because you can learn something every day and this was one of those days. Thank you.
- Coming to the Literacy Ambassador Workshop for the second year has been a wonderful blessing to me. It is an experience that I think everyone should have. You will laugh, cry, and laugh a lot. You will have the opportunity to grow spiritually and emotionally. I can truly say you will leave a better person than you came. I love not having a T.V. in the room, it gives you time to think, recount the events of the day, and wind down and relax. The environment at Camp Caraway is so laid back. You can enjoy a walk around the lake, nature trails, and even an outdoor chapel. I hope to come again and again, but at the same time, my hope is that someone else can come and enjoy a wonderful experience. Thank you so much for allowing me to come again.

Mentor's Comments

- This was clearly a powerful experience for our students. You could see how they naturally evolved into professional speakers over the short span of time they were involved in this program.
- The Ambassador program helps you to learn to share your appreciation for benefits that you have received.
- What would you say to someone else to convince them to attend a Literacy ambassador training? Are you excited about the changes your education experiences have made in your life? Are you a leader in your classes? Do you want valuable professional training in public speaking, advocacy and community relations? Do you want to meet 50 or 60 of the top student and staff Basic Skills leaders throughout the state? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, join this group at Raleigh, on April X – Y, 2008. For more information, call XXX-XXX-XXXX or email XXXXXXX@xxxxx.edu.
- This is an opportunity to evaluate where you have been, where you are and where you are going. This offers a chance to see other's struggles and victories. It places value on each story, journey, and dream represented. Wow!
- I would say that it was very informative, with lots of good information on public speaking, opportunities to hear students' experiences, and time to meet people from other programs; very inspiring.
- Incredible! Great place for a retreat; Great hosts for the retreat; Great guest speakers; heartfelt and inspirational activities and experiences; great interaction during schedules; Great agenda! Great environment outdoors; great learning experiences for adult learners; interaction between adult learners and sharing; the rooms were very nice. Just superb! Fun learning! You will learn, experience learning emotionally and have something to add to your life-long learning repertoire. ☺
- I truly had a learning experience. The tips were wonderful. It will make a difference in the future for me. I enjoyed the positive aspect. No negatives. As a mentor the ambassadors were all truly amazing people. The best conference I have ever been to.
- Certainly would recommend this workshop to anyone interested in literacy. Each speaker brought to us a wealth of informative and encouraging thoughts. A profound experience! One that made each individual comfortable, feel important and worthwhile. It built self-esteem and let the mentors and mentees know that learning is a life long process, that it's okay to just be yourself and never, never give up.
- This was a very “human” conference. We met many students from all different life experiences and they were very open to sharing them with us. Many were very courageous and persistent and achieved their goals. As an instructor, the feedback was uplifting. You never know how and whose life you can touch by being a teacher. ☺
- I would encourage others to come to this high esteem workshop. This professional development program workshop is based on literacy leadership throughout North Carolina Community College. The students are to develop good speaking skills, self confidence, style, and knowledge of self-awareness. This program is great. Success stories are wonderful.
- Wow! The conference was wonderful! The setting was comfortable and relaxing. Meeting the different people with deifferent kinds of talents were amazing! More important, my ambassador nominee is more skilled in the correct way to deliver a presentation.

Describe the most helpful part(s) of this training session.

Student's Comments

- **The instructors**
- **The most helpful part of this training session was the other participants**
- **Janet Bauer presentation; be yourself and let the natural speaker emerge.**
- **Meeting mentors and students from across the state; enjoyed the leadership of Bob Allen; fantastic location and facility; loved the student talents! Better recruitment and selection process for qualified student participants.**
- **I love the honesty and direction of the speakers.**
- **Good communication; the speaker were really good. I really enjoyed Janet's presentation. I appreciated that Toni was down to earth.**
- **Speaker training and personal stories**
- **The different strategies and techniques given for public speaking.**
- **I feel the speakers helped me learn ways to control my emotions and feel more comfortable speaking. Very exciting experience for me. I really appreciate all the nice things this place has to offer.**
- **It taught me how to be more comfortable in public.**
- **Talking and getting to know others**
- **The student presentations**
- **Finding out I was not alone. Made me realize I wanted to get back into a program and try to succeed.**
- **It's been an amazing experience because I know the importance to talk with our hearts and not from our heads, to let people know the amazing and encouraging stories that would inspire them and impact other people lives.**
- **To find myself and be able to give a speech from my heart; I learned to listen.**
- **All the positive comments and training and being taught to just be yourself.**
- **Always hearing the students share. It always encourages me. Kelly has a story that could be turned into a book.**
- **The speaker's and the people that I met in the training session and the stories they told.**
- **The point of being yourself**

Describe the most helpful part(s) of this training session.

Mentor's Comments

- Preparation and building of presentation
- Meeting mentors and students from across the state. Enjoyed the leadership of Bob Allen; fantastic location.
- The presenters were very helpful, however to watch the students open up and risk so much is remarkable.
- I was impressed with how the speakers took away the students fear of speaking. I could see their confidence growing as the weekend progressed.
- Good range of speakers. I would love to have Janet come to our center – I got a lot out of her presentation. It was great to see Toni talk about her experiences in literacy education and hear her give advice on speaking – open up ideas about expertise and what is possible.
- The part on speaking and confidence
- Guest speakers, activities; the hosts (excellent); interaction; human experience superb; sharing stories. Thank you for such a rewarding experience for my students!
- I loved Toni Cordell and Janet Bauer. The success stories were over-powering. They truly touched me.
- Working intensely with my students' presentations was an amazing experience. I greatly enjoyed seeing them grow and develop throughout the workshop. The three presenters did an excellent job in relaying their messages and information. (More on each presenter on the back).
- Emphasis on “Being Yourself” – speak from your heart and that we all can have an influence on someone else – very positive mood of entire time
- Hearing the gratitude of all of the students and their stories and how literacy has improved their life.
- The presenters made everything simple and clear and easy to follow techniques in writing, story telling, creating poems and etc. Make sure you include introduction, body, climax, and conclusion.
- Janet Bauer's presentation about being yourself and speaking from your heart. Hearing the ambassadors tell their individual stories in such varying styles.
- The different theories (styles) of public speaking presented by the three speakers.

