

April, 2006



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student leadership

The Student Leadership Training Program
A Newsletter for the Advisers of Student Activities

The DifferenceMaker

Volume 3 issue 6

The DifferenceMaker—an Adviser Newsletter

The InterLead rocked! By Helen Fitzgerald, CASA Director

The InterLead rocked. Jim called the conference one of the "milestone moments" for SLTP. How big was it, well he went on to say that the conference was an absolutely turning point for our program. We had over 200 students, parents, administrators and their teachers who were joined by legislators from MA, CT and RI. We experienced "the Yellow Dress" and that experience gave us a level of awareness from where we could all enter into discussions about solutions. We broke into small groups called forums (Jim is a former history teacher can you tell?). In those forums, we each struggled with answers to the problem of violence against women in our

schools. We looked for REAL solutions -- for today and for tomorrow. We began with what should each of us DO and SAY when we see instances of abuse. All of the forums created a consensus of their best solutions and reported to the general assembly. The SLTP Administrative Board is going to compile these into a "white paper" to distribute to our member schools. And will be available through a link from our website upon its completion.

We had 8 legislators and a candidate fro Lieutenant Governor attend and participate in the program. Their attendance made a big difference. We are very proud of what we did. We know

we did not solve the problem, but we all feel better having worked on it. I cannot wait to see the "white paper."

It's is not possible to say enough about "the Yellow Dress" either. The presentation is riveting. The content is eye opening, the acting is amazing. But make no mistake it is NOT about the drama. The real substance of the play is in the processing of the play, one of our CC's, Ashley Robshaw, joined the team from Denna's Fund (the group that owns the production) to process the play. As usual with an SLTP crowd, the debriefing went pretty deep.

And that is when the fun began, Jim split

Continued on page 4

What's available this summer?

Registrations for all our summer conferences are underway in earnest! There are just over 15 weeks to go before our summer conferences kick off. All of the applications are available on line as pdf files at www.sltp.info

OTS

There is one session which is

open to all forms of officer teams – from full cabinets to co-captains – from clubs to classes to student government. (The team requirement is that there must be at least a pair of officers)

July 6-7

Continued on page 3

The 2006 Finalists for Student Leader of the Year

Each year we endeavor to celebrate and honor the achievements and involvement of SLTP graduates through the prestigious Student Leader of the Year Awards.

The accomplishments and involvement level of the graduates of SLTP is well known across the country. SLTP Alumni continue to make their mark in their high schools, in their communities and especially at the colleges they choose to attend. This year we had 14 finalists for the award. Each of the fourteen clearly demonstrates the effectiveness of student leadership and the evidence of that effect was plain to see in their accompanying resumes and testimonial letters.

All were feted at the Inter-Lead Conference in front of their parents, teachers and peers. All re-

ceived SLTP scholarships and camperships for deserving students back at their school.

Here are the finalists:

Sarah Bashein—Sharon HS, junior

Becky Damon—Rockland HS, junior

Liz Duclos—Attleboro HS, senior
Jared Katz—St John's Prep, senior

Bridget McDonough—Braintree HS, senior

Greg Mills—Masconomet HS, senior

Lauren Nutter—Uxbridge HS, senior

Ethan Palmer—New Milford HS, senior

Brittany Perro—Northbridge HS, junior

Justin Quartararo—Walt Whit-

man HS, senior

Christina Santana—Doherty HS, junior

Christina Wieggers—New Milford HS, Senior

Kayla Wilcox—Cumberland HS, senior

Doug Williams—Belchertown HS, senior

What is available this summer? Continued from page 1

LTC

There are four sessions. Although there are just over 100 slots available at this point.

July 11-15;

July 18-22;

August 1-5

and Aug 8-12

ALC

There are four sessions and approximately 30 slots available.

July 12-15;

July 19-22;

August 2-5;

and Aug 9-12

TLC

There is only one session and there are 3 slots left.

July 12-15

Adviser Certification

There is only one session which is open to all teachers,

coaches and collegians and there are 10 slots left.

July 27-28

Leadership in Athletics

There is only one session which is open to secondary and collegiate athletes and their coaches and there are 24 slots left.

July 27-28

Newsletter Submissions

SLTP welcomes contributions to our newsletters from our alumni and friends.

Articles should be no longer than 200 words. Each article submitted for publication must address a topic of interest to student leadership. The article

must include a bio of the author - name; address; email address, phone; school; year in school; & SLTP graduation year.

Opinions must be clearly identifies as those of the author.

We reserve the right to edit for length, clarity and

style. We also reserve the right not to publish articles which do not meet the criteria established in our guidelines.

For additional information, please refer to the guidelines posted on sltp.info

The InterLead continued from page 1

us into 11 small random groups, with most groups getting one of the community leaders. And we experienced our first forum. A forum is an open yet pointed discussion, it's purpose it to find the best answers to questions that a group can extract from its talent and experience—and then to report those answers to a decision making body.

All of the group reports were gathered and will find their way into a cumulative report that will answer:

- ◆ what should we Do and SAY as individuals and as leaders about the problem of violence against women?

The responses went from the general to the specific — as in what to say and do when you SEE abuse. only weeks away now.

Following the forums we had a PICNIC — Spring Confer-

ences are the best! After the picnic we had 9 workshops to choose from, which varied from specific community service needs like the walk for Hunger to a session that explained the types of service that exist.

InterLead - short for Inter-State Student Leadership Forum - Our goal was to attempt to be a forum for the expression of student ideas and opinions on the real issues. And in joining the student voices with the voices of community leadership, we hoped to create a real spirit of activism. It worked!

This was a conference that made a statement. It raised awareness as to the seriousness of today's student leaders. It also raised awareness of the quality of today's political leaders.

We closed out the InterLead in our traditional closing for

the Spring Conference honoring the Student Leaders of the Year and the Lifetime Differencemaker. Like I said, this conference rocked!

Celebrate the Student Leader of the Year for 2006

Over the past 17 years, SLTP has striven to become the best leadership training experience any student may have. We have received a fair amount of recognition for what we do. Perhaps the best recognition we receive is the success of our graduates in their schools and later at their colleges.

We instituted a program to recognize the excellence of student leadership because we felt we were morally obligated to raise our voice to praise and promote student leadership.

This year we had an extraordinary group of candi-

dates for the award (see page 2). We are ver proud to announce tThe 2006 SLTP Student Leader of the Year is **Lauren Nutter**.

Lauren attended LTC in 2003, ALC in 2004 and TLC in 2005. She is heavily involved at Uxbridge High School and has participated in virtually every leadership program that has become available to her. Like her fellow finalists, Lauren's resume and academic record are exemplary.

She has striven to learn all she can about how to make a difference. For the past two years, Lauren has served as a

Leadership Trainer with SLTP and was recently elected to the Alumni Board.

According to Lauren "among the most valuable lessons I learned at SLTP has been learning the relationship of cooperation to collaboration. It helps me to know when to step back and when to step forward. Leading from the middle is a difficult concept to grasp."

Lauren received her award from two past recipients of the Student Leader of the Year Award—Meg Dobro and Alyssa Currier.

From where I sit -WHY SLTP? By Jim Fitzgerald, SLTP Founder



Why should anyone attend SLTP? What makes us so special? Why should attending SLTP be on every kid's to-do list? Why do kids and adults thrive in our environment? Take a look at the following quotes:

The best way to get praise is to die.

--Italian Proverb

The only way to get praise is to die.

- Ben Franklin

It is easier to praise people when they are dead.

- Woody Allen

Praise is spread like a carpet on graves.

- Abe Lincoln

Praise seems to happen when it is too late to enjoy it! The common practice at SLTP, "catching people doing things right" is **revolutionary**. I was looking for quotes on praise (part of my preparation for Tranquillity introductions) and I came across these. Anyway, the quotes above were prominently featured in four of the sources under the topic PRAISE as were a whole bunch of others which followed that train of thought

It's no wonder kids and adults thrive in our atmosphere. At SLTP praise is freely given with no strings attached, it is almost surreal in comparison.

One of my friends who is a college recruiter asked me rhetorically, "why are kids so negative today?" I replied, *it certainly does make the positive ones stand out, doesn't it?* He said, "it sure does, and those kids jump to the top of my list, but the problem is they are at the top of everyone else's list too."

In the past few weeks I have been reminded over and over again by my collegiate friends how important *Personal Development* is to anyone's aspirations for scholarship money and admission to college. As I always do at this time of year, I reach out to everyone I know who is in the business of either accepting students to college or

advising them how to get there. In a very short time I will be speaking to the parents of this summer's SLTP campers and even sooner to the parents of HOBY and MassSTAR delegates. Those parents are at a loss about the whole college admission "thing." It is different from years ago when the parents were applying and while the parents want as much information as they can get, they don't have a lot of access. Generally the guidance people at school are too busy or have very little information. So I make it my goal to know what I am talking about -- at least in the broadest possible senses.

In a nutshell, the four legs of the admission table remain - SATs, grades, citizenship (proof provided by resume of involvement in activities and service) and the essay. The "strength" or importance of each leg varies from school to school and a few add on a fifth leg - an interview.

SLTP is a vital part of this picture - it's in the *Personal Development* resume references -- attending a leadership camp is not a "have to," students are not required to take the course. Students attend for themselves and BY themselves, it is not a school field trip. Attending a leadership camp is done purely for educational growth. It says a lot about the person who has taken that step. It says even more when that student attends a program with a reputation for excellence.

Each year we receive hundreds of letters from alumni noting the difference SLTP made in your acceptance to college. For most it made a positive significant difference in the amount of money they received from that college. More importantly though, SLTP made a positive significant difference in YOUR life way beyond the college admission process.

It is time to give back to SLTP. It is time to pay your debt. Help us by spreading the word. Help some kids to make better choices this summer -- sure, they can get a job at the local CVS and make 6 bucks an hour. And wow oh wowie

when they get their first paycheck after taxes, they will have 83 whole dollars and that will help pay the cell phone bill BUT that won't help them get into college, nor will it put one cent in their scholarship account.

Last week I attended a conference for Peer Mediators in Massachusetts. One parent came to me with a question - it seems her school participates in both the MA HOBY & MassSTAR (both host conferences for high school sophomores, each asks that the school send one representative-- MassSTAR is free; HOBY costs 170 dollars). There are 200 students in the sophomore class at her town's school -- and the principal choose to recognize and reward only ONE of them to attend both HOBY and MassSTAR.. The woman asked me how many I thought should go to SLTP -- I answered 150.

How many kids should go to SLTP? My God, what a question!! I can only think of a few from any school I know who should not go. At Holbrook for example there are about 63 kids in the junior class -- probably 59 of them should go. At Warwick, there are about 400 kids in the sophomore class -- probably 398 of them should go. At Belchertown and Uxbridge, the classes are about 100 students each -- 98 plus should go from each. I measure the "should" with the answers to the questions: *would they benefit?; and are they going to college?*

Help us give a whole bunch of kids the best week of their entire lives! *It is up to us to make a difference. It is up to us to care.*

Lessons for the leadership class (reprinted with permission from [Step it up!](#), a CASA publication)

Giving and Getting

Summary

Warm up activity / Communication To encourage participants to “reach out and help” other team members whenever necessary

Possible Focal Points

- ◇ Communication
- ◇ Listening
- ◇ Sharing
- ◇ Growing the team

Materials and Situation

No requirements or materials

Timing

5 – 10 minutes

Procedure

Ask for the loan of 1 dollar from a member of the group. Displaying it prominently in one hand, proceed to ask for the loan of a second dollar from another member. Then carefully repay the first person with the second dollar and the second person with the first dollar. Then ask “is either of these people now richer than they were before the exchange?”

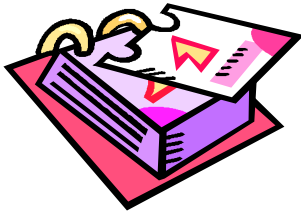
Point out that had the two exchanged IDEAS or

KNOWLEDGE or even QUESTIONS as readily – they each would be richer in experience than they were before. In addition so would the rest of us – because we would have overheard the exchange.

Commentary

Explore the factors which prevent us from asking questions and sharing ideas/information. Explore the factors which encourage us to do so.

National Teacher's Day



Mark your calendar. The date is May 9. Celebrate the day by making a difference. Celebrate the day by sharing an affirmation. On each and every one of our personal thankful lists teachers names can be found.

Reach out to one or two of them. Send them a real thank you note. Be specific. Make their day. When you do, you know that you will also be making the day for all of the students they reach.

Staff Appreciation Day

For staff appreciation day, for new teachers, or substitutes the survival kit can be filled with a variety of little gifts or classroom necessities.

Start with a plain white lunch sized bag or a small plain white gift box. Incorporating the school logo, design labels to apply to the top and front of the box. Line with tissue paper. Attach a hand written card indicating the use of the items inside the box. Fill the box with the items (see below). Be sure to hand deliver personally to each recipient.

For the new teacher: the box might contain, among other things,

- a package of Life Savers,
- a red pen,

- school plan and map,

- a history of the school,

-

- a logo button to wear, and an engraved name tag for back to school nights.

For staff appreciation: Among other things

- Big Hunk Candy bars - We'd be missing a big hunk without you
- Hersey's Kiss & Hugs - Hugs and Kisses from the students
- Band aids - prevent infections from some of us cut ups
- Alka Seltzer - for those rare

wild

- Pencils - to rewrite the history of the school

-

- box of raisins - Thanks for your help in Raisin school spirit

- ruler - with us excellence is the rule.

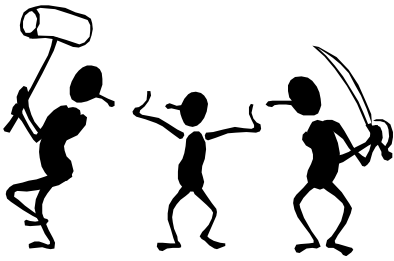
- Post-it note pad - Thanks for helping us stick to our goals.

- Baseball cards - with us you're in the major leagues.

Activity idea

when the moments
Zoo goes

Spring, tis the season of conflicts



In any group conflict is inevitable because different people have different viewpoints. A conflict can be defined as a situation where the concerns or interests of two or more persons appear incompatible. Group members may see the needs of the organization differently because of their different ages, values, situations, jobs, or prior experiences.

In most organizations conflicts arise over questions such as:

What should we be doing?
How should we be doing it?
Who should do it?

Should it be done at all?
Why can't we do it MY way?
Who says?

Since conflict is natural AND inevitable, the goal of the group should not be to eliminate conflict, any more than it should be to eliminate mistakes. Both conflict and mistakes go hand in hand with growth! At the same time though, it is not a good idea to ignore conflict any more than it is to ignore a mistake.

When conflict is ignored, or approached on a win/lose basis, communication breaks down, animosities develop and the ability of the group to function is destroyed or at least impaired.

Conflicts need to be resolved constructively. When conflict arises and is dealt with openly, group members are stimulated to employ creativity as alternatives are considered and commitment continues because

collaboration allows positive relationships to develop.

In schools and particularly within school activities, conflicts abound in the spring. Not because of the change in the season, but because the year is winding down. Seniors face all of their realities, from the ending of friendships to the stress of college acceptances. Prom stress piles on, and when you add in the uncertainty of summer—the activity room can become a powder keg.

As the adviser, you have the unenviable task of facing these outbursts of emotion without emotion. Many groups simply shut down when this season hits, successful groups ride out the storm by renewing their commitment to their goals.

Find a way to release the energy. We suggest one below.

Games to play



Games have infinite uses. The following can be used as a team builder, or for diverting energy to camaraderie. The increase in tension as Spring unfolds makes playing games almost a necessity. Play this game outside on a parking lot or a playing field, where kids have lots of room to run around.

Activity idea

You'll need a Hula Hoop plastic hoop for every participant except one, plus at least 10 Frisbee flying discs. Give all the discs to a designated Frisbee Flinger, and have him or her stand 50 to 100 feet away from the rest of the group. Then give one hoop to each person in that group.

On "go," have the Frisbee Flinger start throwing the flying discs one-by-one as quickly as possible toward the Hula Hoop Holders. The Holders should run around and attempt to get as many discs as possible to fly through their hoops. The Holders get one point for each disc that goes through their hoops. Players should keep track of their own

points. A disc can be scored on as many times as possible until it hits the ground. In other words, more than one Hula Hoop Holder can get a point on the same flying disc.

After the Frisbee Flinger has thrown all the discs, collect them and ask players for their point totals. The first person to reach 10 points gets to be the next Frisbee Flinger.

Increase the distance between the Frisbee Flinger and the Hula Hoop Holders to make the game more difficult.

National Day of Silence

The Day of Silence, a project of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) in collaboration with the United States Student Association (USSA), is a student-led day of action where those who support making anti-LGBT bias unacceptable in schools take a day-long vow of silence to recognize and protest the discrimination and harassment -- in effect, the silencing -- experienced by LGBT students and their allies.

The Day of Silence is scheduled to take place on **April 26, 2006**.

The Day of Silence is an awesome opportunity to create more inclusive school environments and make some noise by being visibly silent. The Day of Silence has been taking place annually since 1996 and this year tens of thousands of students are expected to participate. Last year many of the SLTP member high schools and colleges participated. And already 18

of our member schools have tapped to indicate they are participating this year.

For a student's perspective on this day visit page 6 of this newsletter.

For more information about the Day of Silence visit:

<http://www.dayofsilence.org/>

The 2006 SLTP Conference Schedule

Where leaders learn HOW to make a difference!

- **InterLead—the Inter-State Student Leadership Forum**

April 1

- **Officer Training Seminar**

July 6 - 7

- **Leadership Training Conferences (4)**

July 11 - 15; July 18 - 22;

Aug 1 - 5; Aug 8 - 12

- **Advanced Leadership Conferences (4)**

July 12 - 15; July 19 - 22;

Aug 2 - 5; Aug 9 - 12

- **Leadership in Athletics**

July 27 - 28

- **Adviser Certification**

July 27 - 28

- **The Leadership Center**

July 12 - 15

- ◆ **The ReEnergizer**

November 25, 2006

We're on the Web!

www.sltp.info

Information for Parents, Teachers, Students, Administrators

Conference Brochures

Currently we have the following brochures posted on line:

- <http://staff.sltp.info/brochures/athleticsflyer.pdf>
- <http://staff.sltp.info/brochures/otsflyer.pdf>
- <http://staff.sltp.info/brochures/LTCflyer.pdf>
- <http://staff.sltp.info/brochures/ALCflyer.pdf>
- <http://staff.sltp.info/brochures/Adviserflyer.pdf>
- <http://staff.sltp.info/brochures/interleadflyer.pdf>
- <http://staff.sltp.info/brochures/Generalflyer.pdf>
- <http://staff.sltp.info/brochures/whysltp.pdf>

The Final Mailing



The third and Final Mailing of SLTP's Application Packets will arrive at all

of our member schools and at every high school and middle school in Southern New England school in the next two weeks -- please help us to direct this packet to the students and

advisers who are interested in learning how to make a difference.

Applications for all of our summer conferences are coming in although our pace has slowed at this point.

While we are expecting our highest enrollment to date, we cannot let up. We need to remember that the only way kids make the decision to go to leadership camp is if they are pushed.

Because of staffing limitations this year, we may have to restrict

the size of some of the sessions -- so if a particular session is the only one a friend or recruit can attend -- please get them to register soon.

Do not let them be left out.

The Principles of S.A.F.E. by Jim Fitzgerald

During my facilitation of the Forums at the InterLead, I responded to one of the group reports with a flurry of passion. One of the points they made was that at the heart of the issue was the behavior of men and women towards each other at school. Further they stated that at the very least schools should be one place where kids can go to be safe.

The word **safe** exploded in my head. Certainly we all know how I feel about the connection between learning and comfort. Certainly we all know how I feel about acceptance and respect. All of these thoughts mingled with the adrenaline and out popped a new acronym. Later this month at the AB meeting, I intend to propose that the endorse, adopt and put forward the following principles of SAFE schools. The principles of SLTP are worth emulating.

The following are the basic expectations to foster a healthy atmosphere conducive to learning.

1. Schools are for learning, everyone should have the equal opportunity to learn in an atmosphere conducive to learning.
2. The basic rule of personal conduct and the treatment of others is unconditional acceptance.
3. Respect must be a given.
4. Inclusion must be the norm.
5. Teachers, coaches and all school employees must accept the obligation to practice inclusion and acceptance and to foster both conditions.
6. Language or behaviors that exclude, limit, divide are hurtful, are harmful or are derisive in nature are banned.

With those core tenets in place, schools can build from there. Applying the principles of respect and acceptance to their teaching methodology and their curriculum, schools can create more challenging and appropriate environments for the learning necessary in the 21st century.

Imagine curriculums that engage learners no matter what

style of learner they are.

Once the school environment is free of the network of violence that stems from the lack of acceptance and the predetermined exclusion — then students and teachers will be free.



S.A.F.E.

☉ Schools

☉ Are

☉ For

☉ Everyone

Have you read?



1. Who moved my cheese? by Spencer Johnson
2. Mindmapping by Joyce Wycoff
3. Its Our World, Too by Phillip Hoose
4. The Spyglass by Richard Paul Evans
5. Reviving Ophelia by Mary Pipher
6. But I love him by Dr. Jill Murray
7. Please stop laughing at me by Jodee Blanco
8. The Emperor's new clothes by Hans Christian Anderson

Scholarship Opportunity



The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes honors outstanding young leaders who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet. Their leadership and courage make them true heroes – and inspirations to us all. Each year, the Barron Prize selects ten winners nationwide. Half of the winners have focused on helping their communities and fellow beings; half have focused on protecting the health and sustainability of the environment. These young people reflect the great diversity of America. They are female

and male, urban and rural, and from many backgrounds. The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes is seeking nominations for its 2005 Awards.

The Barron Prize honors young people ages 8 to 18 who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet.

Each year, 10 national winners receive \$2,000 to support their service work or their higher education.

The Barron Prize relies on thoughtful adults to identify and nominate children from the diverse communities in which they live. The Prize accepts nominations on an annual basis and distributes \$2,000 awards every fall. To nominate a young person, the adult nominator

must submit a fully-completed nomination packet (received in the Prize office by April 30)

This year's nomination deadline is APRIL 30.

For more information or to download the information to nominate, visit: <http://www.barronprize.org>

Check this out!

Meg Dobro, one of SLTP's Conference Coordinators, has offered to run for SLTP as she ventures forth on her second Boston Marathon.

This time around meg has been issued a number, which means she is entitled to run for a charity. Meg will be running for SLTP.

Running for SLTP

In this month's alumni newsletter Meg submitted a call for help from our alumni to sponsor her effort.

We sent out a similar call in our staff newsletter, and we have decided to inform the entire SLTP family of Meg's Run for Leadership. As you are well aware, SLTP is a non profit, all volunteer effort. We have limited funding resources outside of our conference tuition. Help

us to fund the many scholarships we offer.

Tap to Meg with your pledge, meg@sltp.info

student leadership

The Student Leadership Training Program

Leaders walk their talk.

Think about it.

What are the biggest lessons you've learned in life? Did you learn by reading a book? By your favorite lecture? Or by doing something? We suspect it was through something you did, or something that happened to you.

It's the same with growth as a leader. When students directly help someone in need (*putting their words into action*), they grow as an individual and as a leader.

Act now to take a leap into effective leadership. Encourage student leaders to join us at one of the 10 summer conferences in 2006. And besides all the different weeks, there are four different levels of the experience...*all designed to boost individual student's skills and knowledges:*

Be sure to visit <http://www.sltp.info> frequently for updates.

We teach . . .

Leadership **ideals**

Leadership **skills**

Leadership **practices**

For more information or to download applications visit:

[http://
www.sltp.info](http://www.sltp.info)

Our Conferences

The ReEnergizer

November 25, 2006

Officer Training Seminar

July 6,7

Leadership Training Conferences

July 11-15; 18-22; Aug. 1-5; 8-12

Advanced Leadership Conference

July 12-15; 19-22; Aug. 2-5; 9-12

Leadership in Athletics

July 27-28

Adviser Certification Conference

July 27-28

The Leadership Center

July 12-15

Interested in learning how to make a difference?

Want to get more organized?

Need to revitalize your leadership skills?

Join us **this summer** at The Student Leadership Training Program's

student leadership
The **Student Leadership Training Program**

Leaders walk their talk.

Leadership Training Conferences



where? Nichols College – Dudley, Mass.

when? July 11-15; 18-22; Aug 1-5; 8-12

what? leadership skills, ideals and practices, fun, practical and applicable lessons, peer networking

Tuition: only \$350!

For applications or more information Visit: <http://sltp.info>

Conference Highlights:

*Idea sharing ~ Skill building ~ Critical concerns
Essential Skill training ~ Special Theatrical Program ~ Eventology ~ Proactivity ~ Intentionality
DifferenceMakers ~ college scholarship information ~ Portfolio Construction
Staff from all over the country ~ Keynote speaker ~ Comprehensive manual
Three to one student to staff ratio
and much, much more ...*