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Keuka’s Guthrie, Daggett Lead Training Workshop On Experiential Learning

KEUKA PARK, N.Y.—When the Yates County Youth Bureau was looking to provide community youth program leaders and educators with experiential learning activities they could incorporate into their youth programs, it turned to the national leader in experiential, hands-on learning.

Keuka College’s Assistant Dean of Experiential Education Anne Marie Guthrie and Associate Director of Experiential Education Sally Daggett teamed up to present a training workshop at the College Dec. 16 titled “Empowering Youth by Providing Experiential Learning Opportunities — Theory and Practice.” Some 30 professionals from local youth-oriented agencies participated.

The workshop included discussions of the David Kolb Experiential Learning Model, learning styles, and how the experiential learning concept can be used for youth programming. Participants got some hands-on experience with the Kolb Model when they were asked to divide into small groups and design a youth program using the model, which they presented to the larger group.

According to Yates County Youth Bureau Director Nana Carrillo, “this training concept grew out of the Expanding Youth Development Coalition, a collaborative group in Yates County interested in building program capacities to create opportunities for engaging civic leadership and academic success for youth in the community.

“[Experiential learning] is particularly important for youth who have faced difficulties with classroom learning in the past, either due to learning difficulties or disinclination,” added Carrillo. “[A large] percentage of fourth through eighth grade youth in Yates County schools have been identified to have some level of learning disability. These youth respond well to hands-on or experiential learning activities. ‘Learning by doing’ can be a way to re-engage them in the process of learning and help them become more confident in their ability to achieve success and make a difference.”

The workshop, which was free of charge and included lunch, was funded by a grant from the Association of New York State Youth Bureaus. In addition to the Yates County Youth Bureau, it was sponsored by the Office of Workforce Development’s Youth Services program.



From left: Assistant Dean of Experiential Education Anne Marie Guthrie, Yates County Youth Bureau Director Nana Carrillo, and Associate Director of Experiential Education Sally Daggett.