



Y Partners to Provide Youth Leadership Training in Q-C

October 13 Event Will Inspire Area Teenagers

Parents Encouraged To Observe, Be Inspired

DATE: October 4, 2006

CONTACT: Lori Freemire at 563/505-2307

DAVENPORT, IA--Aubrey Podschweit, a 13 year old from Bettendorf, walked up to her math teacher and said, "I'd like to get an 'A' in my class. Will you help me be accountable so I can make this goal?" The Pleasant Valley teacher, Jen Kremer responded affirmatively and with surprise as rarely had she seen a student taken such a direct approach to goal setting.

"I was amazed when Aubrey told me what she'd done," said Mary Kaye Podschweit, Aubrey's mother. "She approached her teachers without any urging on my part. I'd attended the Path of Success Leadership Seminar with her as an observer and was very impressed by what I had experienced. I knew her attitude had changed but I didn't know it had impacted her like this!"

As a result of the encouragement of Mary Kaye and a partnership with the Scott County Family Y, the Path of Success Leadership Seminar will be presented for Quad City area youth on October 13. The training will take place at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds from 8:00am to 3:30pm in Keppy Hall.

"This program is amazing," said Mike Reid, QC area resident and former Central High School basketball coach. "I observed the Seminar in March and have only one regret: that my 18 year-old daughter was not with me to also experience it. This is the course I didn't have when I was in high school trying to figure out what direction to take. It's the educational equivalent of the missing link."

Path of Success, Inc. is a non profit organization that works with parents, teachers, schools and other organizations to "directionalize" high school students. Using a high energy, interactive approach, the training empowers youth to become successful in their relationships, academics and future careers.



Figure 1 Smiles Abound! The Successful Summer Seminar at the Lodge In Bettendorf, Aug. 2006 Pictured are Esther Rychlik, Alfred Watts, Shane Johnson and Cassie Bowen.)

The Leadership Seminar is geared towards 13-18 year olds and consists of five sessions and breakout activities that center around three drivers: developing self direction (focus), improving self esteem (attitude) and enhancing decision-making (choices). The session titles are: “Tapping the Spirit Within,” “Renewing Your Mind,” “Dream Big Dreams and Achieve Them,” “Who are You? Character vs. Personality,” and “Daring to be Different.”

“Specifically, the program teaches teens how to live life on the level of their desire,” said Watts. “What is it that they really want to do in life? It may be something they’ve never ever shared with anyone. We challenge them by asking ‘If success was guaranteed and failure was not an option, what would you do?’”

“As a result of the Seminar, I’ve begun to take more responsibility for my decisions in day-to-day life and [it] made me want to be a successful person,” said Andrew Sullivan, a tenth grader from Davenport and 2006 Seminar graduate.

Past hosts of the Seminar include New Canaan Country School, New Haven, CT, School-to-Careers in Cheyenne, WY, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School, St. Louis, MO, and Norwalk High School, Norwalk, CT.

The \$50.00 per student fee for the October 13 Seminar will cover the cost of the training, a guidebook, pen, snacks and transportation from area high schools and select pick-up points. Due to the generous support of the following, the Seminar is being offered to YMCA members and to youth without financial means free of cost:

Mike and Kim Whalen of The Machine Shed
Dave and Tami Schiltz of Brown Traffic Products
Ben and Ann Mangan of MANCOMM/American Safety Training, Inc.
Andy and Sue Kay of The Green Thumbers

“Our hope is that Path of Success becomes part of the educational fabric of our community,” said Dave Schiltz. “As the father of a 16 year old, any program that can gain the attention of a teenager and get them moving in the right the direction like this program deserves our full support.”

Path of Success, Inc. is headquartered at Choate Rosemary Hall, a prestigious private high school in Wallingford, Connecticut. Choate alumni include President John F. Kennedy and actress Ali McGraw. It has also been the high school of choice for the children of Donald Trump and Peter Jennings.

Offices for the 501(c)3 tax exempt organization are also maintained in West Haven, CT and Davenport, IA. The Davenport office is managed by Iowa native Shane Johnson, an Iowa State University graduate and former District Director for Congressman Jim Nussle.

“Since attending the Seminar, Aubrey has become much more focused and intentional,” said Mary Kaye Podschweit. “Wait a minute, did I say ‘focused’ in the same sentence with a mention of my daughter?” she laughed. “I know other parents may think that sounds impossible but this program really connects with students and I encourage them to register their children right away for the October 13 Seminar.” For more information go to www.pathofsuccess.org or call 563-324-0644.