Early Childhood Education students go the extra mile!

Early Childhood Education (ECE) students not only went the extra mile but approximately 70 miles to attend the 2004 Kentucky Association for Early Childhood Education and Kentucky Head Start Association Fall Collaborative Institute held in Lexington, Kentucky. All were eager to attend their first professional development conference for early childhood education with the program coordinator, Angela Riggs.

Institute was joint effort

Pam Stiltz, Lexington ECE program coordinator, and Angela Riggs collaborated on the joint adventure, “Racing Toward the Future,” to expand their students’ knowledge in the childcare field.

“I am pleased that the ECE programs on both campuses are growing. We are dedicated to build solid programs with curriculums that push the students not only to learn the theories of child development but utilize that knowledge on application projects,” stated Mrs. Riggs.

Practicing what she preaches, Mrs. Riggs was recently awarded the Early Childhood Trainer’s Credential from the Cabinet for Health & Family Services and Division of Childcare after attending leadership trainings and continued professional development seminars in conjunction with her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Education which were requirements to receive the highest trainer’s level of 5.

The large truck plant at the Ford Motor Company on Westport Road now has ten freshly minted mediators with lapsels. In an arrangement with Sullivan University and its International Center for Dispute Resolution (ICDR), a group of union trainers was selected to be the first graduates of this specialized training. Marty Spiegel, Director of Training for the Ford plant, was an advocate for this class, and she coordinated the enrollment of key employees in hopes of introducing them to the benefits of interest-based conflict resolution and the value of a mediated approach to dispute resolution.

Mediation training was online and conducted onsite

Part of this program was conducted online, the first such training application for mediation in the nation. Once a week the class met with instructors to engage in role playing exercises and mediation simulations. Tony Belak, the Executive Director of Sullivan’s International Center for Dispute Resolution, was co-trainers for this pioneering project.

Comprehensive learning experience

The students learned about sources of conflict and how to use conflict as a natural resource. They learned how to interpret non-verbal communication; the techniques of mediation; active listening skills; and how to deal with difficult behavior. Each graduate was certified as a workplace mediator and some opted to attain academic credit for the course by writing a paper on the topic of conflict resolution. Each received a M.E.D.I.A.T.E lapel pin and all found the training useful and relevant to their work.

Another innovative and necessary training class, aimed at making the workplace a friendlier environment, is planned for a large number of managers and union leaders.

Students were required to work in groups and prepare presentations to share what they had learned on the field trip.

Super Saturdays begin soon

To promote professional development and continued training in childcare, Sullivan University will host the 4C’s Community Coordinated Childcare, Super Saturdays. Super Saturday Sessions are state approved trainings for workers in the childcare field. Each training session is presented by a credentialed trainer utilizing best practices and standards for early childhood education. Sullivan instructors will benefit from this by having the opportunity to attend these sessions free of charge.

Wow! The Bakery receives the national “Achievement of Culinary Excellence Award”

Above, Dr. Stephen Coppock, Executive Vice President and CEO of Sullivan University, (right) and Chef Walter Rhsa, Director of Sullivan University’s National Center for Hospitality Studies (left) were at the American Culinary Federation’s National Convention to accept the Achievement of Culinary Excellence Award on behalf of The Bakery at Sullivan University. The Achievement of Culinary Excellence Award recognizes food-service establishments that exemplify commitment to excellence for specific programs. The Bakery’s award is very exclusive as only two pastry shops or bakeries in the country may be recognized annually.

The Bakery, which reopened after extensive remodeling, is creating a new concept, has also earned “The Golden Cup” award from the Specialty Coffee Association of America.

On Sullivan’s Lexington campus, advanced MSDR student Katie McCallister is teaming up with Wills Pastries and Bakeries in the area. Her diverse interests are reflected through strong contacts she has made with Lexington area organizations: Lexington Fayette Urban County Government Citizen’s Advocate, and the Better Business Bureau of Central and Eastern Kentucky.

McCallister says, “Building strong partnerships is easy when we have such excellent students. We will sell our program. Jack, Barry, and Katie, will put Sullivan’s best foot forward. They are truly, MSDR Pioneers. I’m glad even to know these fine people, let alone assist their career education.”

Internships with national agencies

Wills also noted there are developing partnerships that may lead to internships with national agencies: The National Association for Community Mediation (Washington, DC), The Association for Family Conciliation Courts (Madison, WI), and The U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (Tucson, AZ), are considering official partnerships with Sullivan’s MSDR program. These partnerships will give national networking opportunities to Sullivan students to travel to those locations, or to mediation centers connected to them.