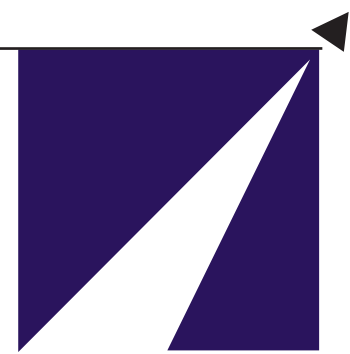


ReVision



P R O J E C T

YES

re (ri) *n.* 1. anew, again **vision** (v'izh 'ən) *n.* 1. the manner in which one sees or conceives of something.

Making our world safe for ALL youth

Accredited in Colorado and Georgia



Learning about gender.

Out of an urgent need for education on gender and orientation, new partnerships and requests for workshops are pouring into Project YES. Our courses were recently accredited in Colorado by the Roaring Fork District school system, and in Georgia by the School of Education at North Georgia College and State University (NGCSU). We will also begin working with the West Palm Beach school system, as well as continuing our efforts in Miami-Dade and Broward schools next year.



North Georgia College and State University.

Colorado Mountain College (CMC), in partnership with the Roaring Fork school district, will bring Project YES to Colorado to conduct a week-long series of courses for both high school teachers and college faculty. These courses will be conducted at CMC and will include *Communication Solutions*, *Essentials of Orientation*, and the *Gender Continuum*. We will use the Polycom® distance learning capability of CMC to conduct workshops that will be simulcast to multiple campus locations.

In addition to accrediting our courses for PLU's

(Professional Learning Units) for faculty, NGCSU has submitted our curricula for approval as a graduate level course study. NGCSU also approved a budget to send a leadership team to Project YES for training next year.

After our first presentation in West Palm Beach schools (see *West Palm Welcome* on this page), we received an enthusiastic note of thanks and a request to return to West Palm in the coming school year.

Harassment related to gender and orientation has become more virulent in schools as societal changes make these issues more topical and divisive. The repeated link to violence and bullying has become obvious to even the most conservative and fearful educators. They want desperately to respond in appropriate ways to mitigate the damage they see happening in schools every day. When they find out there is help available that can include all points of view and won't become divisive, they seek assistance. As a principal in an inner city Miami-Dade school recently said after one of our presentations, "What took you so long to get here?"



Project YES heads for the mountains of Colorado.

West Palm Welcome

Almost 85 faculty members gathered at Alexander Dreyfoos High School for Project YES' first West Palm Beach presentation. A representative from the high school's professional development task force committee, Christy Holimon, chose Project YES after hearing about us from a colleague who took one of our CEU courses.



A school day begins in Palm Beach.

“Excellent presentation on relevant issues... I learned how little we know about transgender and gender identities, and how complicated it is!”

– Alexander Dreyfoos teacher



Alexander Dreyfoos School, West Palm Beach.

Representatives from Safe Schools came to observe the presentation and assess the appropriateness for Palm Beach County Schools. Project YES received a note of thanks from Ms. Holimon a few days later relaying their excitement and reporting that the Safe Schools representatives were very impressed. After the presentation, the task force members spoke at length and found many applications for Project YES in Palm Beach Schools next year.

Visit www.projectyes.org to access upcoming speaking engagements, educational workshops, and online donations.

Essence of Leadership



Southridge students with Martha Fugate, Keren Pilinger, and Priscilla Dames.

Essence of Sisterhood, a student club sponsored by Ruby Jenkins at Miami Southridge High School, was in search of leadership training for its members. Priscilla Dames, safe schools facilitator, had just learned about the Project YES *Leadership in Action* workshop and invited us to share the workshop with these young women.

"It was great for me to see Project YES at work. There is no other organization providing the education Project YES offers. All schools really need these kinds of seminars," said Priscilla Dames of Safe Schools.

Project YES summer intern Keren Pilinger led the interactive workshop in the Miami Southridge High School library. It was truly amazing to see how eager and receptive the students were for coaching and encouragement on leadership.

“I thought I knew a lot about communication, but they taught me that there’s more to it than I thought.”

– Jeanean Lee, Miami Southridge student

Enhancing Career Skills Training



Job Corps trainees with Laura Fothergill.

Job Corps is a program that gives young people the resources they need as members of the work force. Joseph Zolobczuk and Laura Fothergill visited Job Corps after many requests from both faculty and students to discuss sexual orientation with trainees. Many

of them had had no experience with openly gay employees until they began the Job Corps program. Joseph related the dynamics he experienced being gay in school and working

“This training will really benefit our trainees at MJCC. Hopefully this is the start of a new beginning with Project YES.”

– Naerlisa Kinsey, Miami Job Corps student

at a nursing home while Laura, a heterosexual missionary, gave a moving account of how gender and orientation has impacted her family.

Voices of Young Women



American High School students.

I want to thank Project YES so much for the SAFE-T course you did for my girls in April. They were so excited about their new ideas on communicating with others, especially on the topic of sexual orientation. One of the girls came to see me on Monday morning with stars dancing in her eyes – as a result of what she had learned on Friday and the confidence she

had gained, she was able to tell her Mom that she is lesbian, and was able to talk about it in a way that allowed her mother to respond supportively. The ripples in the pond of Project YES' work just keep expanding! Thanks again for the work you do, every day, all day.

Sincerely,

Ellen Fike

American High School TRUST Counselor



Girls engaged in communication exercises as part of the Women's Fund Initiative.

Communication Solutions

Each *Communication Course* gives us the opportunity to meet and work with amazing people using the power of their own voice to make a difference. Many effective actions quickly followed this course.



Course participants in discussion.

Priscilla Dames, a Safe Schools coordinator for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, scheduled a leadership course for the Essence of Sisterhood club. Chris Taylor moved to North Carolina, and declared that he would like to begin Charlotte YES. Eric Mendez, Board Member of TwentySomethings, went on to complete our *Leadership in Action Course* and became a powerful presenter for Project YES.

If you would like to observe a presentation or would like to take the *Communication Course* and join our speakers bureau, please visit www.projectyes.org/calendar and let us know which presentation you would like to attend. Our next *Communication Course* is Friday and Saturday, August 6 & 7. Register now at **305-663-7195**.

STEPS Toward Awareness



Liz Johnson, LMFT, with Keren Pilinger and Kevin Ford, psychiatric assistant.

"Go around, say your name and age and, if you're comfortable, say why you're here," instructed a clinician. Many of the teenagers sitting awkwardly in this circle cited drug abuse, depression, and family problems. At the STEPS (Success Through Effective Problem Solving) outpatient center in Pembroke Pines, Joseph Zolobczuk and Keren Pilinger met with a group of STEPS participants to dialogue about sexual orientation and gender.

Joseph and Keren both shared their personal experiences and then deftly answered the many questions that followed. The conversation evolved from a singular focus on orientation and labeling to a broader look at gender. As they began to discuss gender, the participants' eagerness and questions outpaced time constraints of the presentation and many stayed afterwards to continue the discussion.

Kiaora Society Contributions

We are extremely grateful for the continuing **Visionary** support of **Tim and Meredith Birrittella**, as well as Tim's exceptional leadership as Chair of the Board of Project YES.

We welcome four new **Kiaora Mentors** this month. Joining are: longtime friend, teacher, missionary, and generous spirit **Jennifer Weise; Eva Leivas Andino, her children and grandchildren; longtime supporter Magda Panteleon**, contributing through her company **East Coast Realtors, Inc.;** and **Mark Scott**,

through a pledge with United Way.

We greatly appreciate the renewed commitment of **Mentors Ralph Lutrin & Alan Lewis, George Lindemann Jr., Howard Perry Rothberg II & Paul A. Scolieri-Rothberg, Juan Carlos Urquiola through United Way, Trae Williamson & Daniel Carter, and Robin Wolff & Kathy Gregory.** Without the extraordinary commitment and generosity of Kiaora Society members, we would not be able to do the work of Project YES. We thank you all!



Kiaora Society

Kiaora Society members donate \$1,000 or more to Project YES annually.

Visionary

\$10,000 or more

Lang Baumgarten
Tim & Meredith Birrittella
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\$2,500 or more

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Culture Shock for MDC Students



Eric Mendez, Project YES youth speaker, and Prof. Brad Stocker, ESOL instructor, at Miami Dade College.

“I learned something valuable and worthwhile... I appreciate very much your coming to teach me something new. You guys are BRAVE.”

– MDC ESOL student

Students hailing from diverse locales, from Europe to South America to Japan, spoke with Joseph Zolobczuk and Eric Mendez, a new Project YES youth speaker, on April 14 in their Miami-Dade College English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) class. Eric, an FIU student, was able to relate well to the Latino students in the class as he shared his struggles

growing up in a Latino family.

Many students' ideas about sexual orientation and gender were very different from those of people growing up in the United States. Some were not even aware of gay people's existence until they came to the US. In many of their native countries, being gay is a societal death sentence.

“I discovered new and important things that I didn't know about gender roles. I think it is important to let others know – it could be crucial and significant.”

– Ana Hernandez, MDC ESOL student

New Dialogue at Norland High School



Students engage in discussion.

“Today I learned that gay people are human beings just like us. Just because they are gay doesn't give us the right to mistreat them.”

– Miami Norland Sophomore

Ms. Wanda Santos, Norland High School teacher, requested that Project YES provide guest speakers for all of her high school health classes. Over the course of two days, more than 300 students at Norland had the opportunity to dialogue on orientation and gender with Project YES presenters Joseph Zolobczuk and Keren Pilinger.

“There were so many things that I didn't know, things that I knew but didn't really understand, and got cleared up, and things that I already knew and have now grown to respect. I do now respect gays and lesbians, even though I disapprove of it.”

– Miami Norland Junior



Over 300 students participated.

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Leaders Meet at Project YES



Leadership in Action Course participants with Joseph Zolobczuk.

Susan Hakanson, School Board President from Roaring Fork Valley, and Scott Chaplin, Director of the Stepstone Center, both in Colorado, met local leaders when they came to Miami for our *Leadership in Action Course*. Regina Brown, Cherie Leite, and Alecia Tramel from Carrfour, Karin Brown, Past PTA President and School Board Candidate, Leticia Carrazanna, Citibank Global Diversity, Eric Mendez,

Twentysomethings, Carol Stanley, LCSW, Kay Barlow, youth leader from Coral Gables Congregational Church, Marliene Bastien of Haitian Women of Miami, and Marsha Oldakowski from Sante Fe, all participated with each adding a unique view in which everyone could share.

This was an incredibly inspiring day and we thank all the participants that made this course so special.



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Accreditation



Florida State Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling



TEC-Accredited by the Dade-Monroe Teacher Education Center for Master Plan Points (MPP)



Roaring Fork Valley School District (RE-1) Teacher Education



North Georgia College and State University Professional Learning Units (PLUs)

Our Vision

A community in which gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and all youth develop as healthy individuals free of suicide, violence and discrimination.

Our Mission

To prevent suicide and ensure the healthy development of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth by initiating dialogue, providing education and creating support systems.

Snapshots



Reporters from Telemundo Televisión interviewed Eva Leivas-Andino, Project YES Hispanic Coordinator, about her efforts to bring education to Hispanic families in Miami-Dade and South America.

We welcome summer intern Keren Plinger to Project YES. A Miami native, she currently attends Skidmore College in New York. Next semester, she is organizing the Gender and Sexuality House at her college, a campus-awareness and safe space campaign for transgender advocacy.



Nina Topp (top right) leading the Leadership in Action Course for young girls at Miami Edison. We thank Ms. Thinn Aung with URGENT, Inc., for providing this opportunity for her girls through the Women's Fund Initiative.