

National Dropout Prevention Network's

Crystal Star Awards of Excellence

Monday, October 23, 2017 12:00 noon

Program Award of Excellence

Family Leadership Institute

Educational Achievement Services, Inc., Las Vegas, NV

The Family Leadership Institute (FLI) is an educational curriculum aimed at parents and caregivers, with the goal of providing them with family leadership skills in order to support academic achievement and life success for their children. The FLI was originally designed to serve immigrant and migrant Hispanic families. Its two main areas of emphasis are, first, to provide participating parents and caregivers with the skills and inspiration needed to enhance their own personal success and to allow them to serve as role models for their children. Second, the program places strong emphasis on parental engagement and attempts to increase parents' involvement in their children's education.

The FLI curriculum was developed through the life experience of Lt. Col. Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch (Ret.) and is offered through Educational Achievement Services, Inc., Las Vegas, NV. It has been refined through implementation over the past 20 years. More than 1,000 districts have been exposed to this program in some form. When implemented fully, FLI has demonstrated effectiveness in increasing parent engagement. At the same time, student performance has increased as seen by improved student attendance, lower discipline incidents and retention, and higher academic scores. The effective focus on parent engagement has earned the Family Leadership Institute the Crystal Star Award of Excellence in Dropout Recovery, Intervention, and Prevention.

Program Award of Excellence

Changing the World, One Student at a Time Program

Westside High School/Anderson School District Five, Anderson, SC

In the fall of 2013, Thomas A. Wilson, Superintendent of Anderson School District Five, Anderson, SC, contacted the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network (NDPC/N) to discuss possible ways the NDPC/N could support his district priority of improving graduation rates. The conversation led to NDPC/N and the district conducting a series of Program Assessment and Reviews (PARs). The goal of the PARs was to develop the schools' and the district's capacity for self-directed, continuous school improvement, resulting in more students being able to graduate from high school in a timely manner, prepared for successful transition to their next steps.

The PARs identified areas of focus that align with eight of the 15 effective strategies for dropout prevention as identified by NDPC/N. Comprehensive efforts were made in the areas of Systemic Approach, Safe Learning Environments, Mentoring/Tutoring, Alternative Schooling, Professional Development, Active Learning, Educational Technology, and Individualized Instruction.

Over the course of the next three years, the administration and faculty have worked tirelessly to move from a status quo, fixed mindset to put action behind a vision that has resulted in growth and impact proven by the increase in graduation rate from 70.00% to 78.87%. Particularly effective was the "Changing the World, One Student at a Time" program conducted at Westside High School. The presentation of the Crystal Star Award of Excellence in Dropout Recovery, Intervention, and Prevention honors the district's intentional and effective effort to increase the graduation rates in their community.

Nominations for the National Dropout Prevention Network Crystal Star Award of Excellence in Dropout Recovery, Intervention, and Prevention are now being accepted. **We need your help in identifying and honoring outstanding programs and individuals in the field of dropout prevention.** Nomination forms are located on the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network website (under the link entitled Awards) at www.dropoutprevention.org. The nomination process is done electronically.

**2018
NOMINATIONS**

Nomination Deadline: June 29, 2018

Questions and comments should be directed to John Gailer at jgailer@clermson.edu or 864-656-2675.