

The Peer Institute is...

- Intellectual Growth
- Leadership Development
- Collaboration
- Social Responsibility
- Appreciating Diversity
- And so much more!!!

Inside this issue:

Peer Fun!	2
Open Mic Rocks!	2
Jack Elsmore	2
Matt Bellace	3
Special Thanks	4
Congratulations	5

Peer Institute

The mind is not a vessel to be filled
but a fire to be ignited. ~ Plutarch

June 2009

Breeding Future Leaders

This year, the Peer Institute was held at the centrally located College of New Jersey and hosted over 100 students, advisors, and presenters. Individuals from 7 schools participated in the conference, including representatives from The College of New Jersey, William Paterson University, Berkeley College—Middlesex Campus, Rider University, Centenary College, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, and New Jersey

City University. As in previous years, students were exposed to numerous presentations and trainings throughout the 3 day event, and participated in a special high school portion of the Peer Institute on Thursday, June 4th.



Several schools including Rider University, Berkeley College, The College of New Jersey, and New Jersey City University developed their own programs to present to peers on topics ranging from developing healthy relationships to taking care of yourself as a peer educator. Thank you for participating in this year's Peer Institute. We hope you had an enjoyable experience, learned a great deal about peer education, and will visit us again next year!!!

Peer Presentations Receive Rave Reviews

This year, students presented on a number of topics, including "Listening Skills," - *Rider University*, "Healthy Relationships," and "Bystander Intervention," - *The College of New Jersey*, "Taking Care of Yourself," - *Berkeley College*, and "Opening Ice Breaker" and

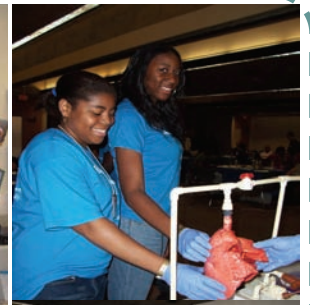
"What Would You Do..." - *New Jersey City University*. Based upon evaluations submitted by attendees of the institute, all of these presentations were extremely informative, enjoyable, and valuable to fellow peer educators. The students

from each school put a tremendous amount of time and effort into each presentation, and we want to congratulate you all on a job well done!!!

Peer Fun...



TCNJ presenting Bystander Intervention at Peer Institute



“If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put foundations under them.”

~ Henry David Thoreau

Open Mic Rocks!!

This year’s Peer Institute Open Mic brought a new batch of talent to the PI family! Hosts Dawan Worsley and Chris Roberson kicked the show into action and led the way for musical acts, irish

dancing footwork, and even a Batman and Joker skit, complete with wardrobes! To top off the excitement, Mark Fisher, Marianne Edmond, and Kristianne Fitzpatrick sat at the critics table to

volunteer their keen eyes as Peer Idol judges. With all the talent that we saw at this year’s PI, its hard to imagine what participants will have in store for us next year!

Jack Elsmore

As a returning presenter to the Peer Institute, Jack Elsmore provided us with two informative and eye-opening presentations. The first, “Smoke Signals”

provided valuable information regarding the negative effects of cigarette smoke and the dangers of long term use. In his second presentation, “Hopes and Dreams,” Jack’s

heartfelt and tragic story of his son’s battle with addiction gave us all an inside look into how addiction can affect a family, and how prevention is the key to battling substance abuse and misuse.

Matt Bellace Motivates and Inspires

Matt Bellace returned to the 2009 Peer Institute for another inspirational, motivational presentation to college and high school peers. With over 150 individuals in attendance, Bellace described his experiences as a peer educator at Bucknell University. There, he started CALVIN &

HOBBS, a peer leadership group focused on having positive college experiences without the need for alcohol and drug use. Matt is always a pleasure to have and offers life-long advice on what it means to be a peer educator and a positive influence on others. To learn more

about Matt, please visit his website at <http://www.mattbellace.com>



Special Thanks!!

The Peer Institute takes preparation, coordination, and a tremendous amount of dedication on the part of presenters, students, advisors, and planners. We would like to thank each and every participant who attended this year's PI, and hope to see you back next year.

We would also like to specially recognize Peer Institute Coordinators who helped plan and run the event, including Joe Hadge, Michelle Gervasi, Matt Leibowitz, Alyson Pompeo, Chris Roberson, Allison Montgomery, and Jackie Deitch-

Stackhouse.

Finally, a big thanks to all students and advisors who presented at the Peer Institute:

New Jersey City University PEPPERS

The College of New Jersey SAVE Peer Educators

Chris Roberson - Nyack College Alliance Theological Seminary

Rider University PHOCUS Peer Educators

Ann DeGennaro - Montgomery High School

Michael McNeil - Columbia University

Alyson Pompeo and Berkeley B.A. PAL Peer Educators

Jack Elsmore - Morris County Prevention is Key

Christine Liparini - Fairleigh Dickinson

Joe Hadge - The College of New Jersey

Lynette Harris - The College of New Jersey

Matt Bellace - Keynote Speaker

Magda Manetas - The College of New Jersey

Thank you again to all who participated and volunteered their time, effort, and energy!



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Congrats to this year's PI Graduates!

Congratulations to the students of:

Berkeley College

Centenary College

New Jersey City University

Rider University

The College of New Jersey

Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

William Paterson University