

Words Create Worlds, July/August 2007



Congratulations to three newly certified AI Facilitators: **Hannah Kilger**; Penn State Abington; **Sharon Johnson**, Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania; and **Christine Marlow**, University of New Mexico Gallup.

Important Dates

November 2, 3, & 4, 2007 . Registration is open for the Creative Change Institute in Houston, Texas see **Conference Details** at the end of this E-letter.

We are proud to announce our Fall/Winter Schedule - a good time for a refresher if you like for the cost of materials and food only.

Dates

October 8 - 11, 2007
October 24 . 27, 2007
November 6 - 9, 2007
February 19 - 22, 2008

Location

University of Colorado, Boulder
Northern Essex Community College
University of Nevada at Reno
Houston Community College

Do you live in the Oklahoma/Kansas area?

Mikki Lynn [MikkiJLynn@yahoo.com], AIFT, Oklahoma is seeking an AI connection! Mikki attended the AIFT in Oklahoma with trainers Charles Miller and Kay Weiss. Mikki and others at the AIFT, Oklahoma are interested in starting an AI Group in Oklahoma/Kansas. If you are in their geographical area, email Mikki. She has a lot of energy and this would be a fun group to team up with!

New Article ***Aligning Strengths*** written by **Nancy Stetson** is attached and can also be found at www.centerforappreciativeinquiry.net. Nancy suggests that you may be interested in sending it out to Inquiry participants prior to an inquiry. It is an overview and it is free! ***Thank you Nancy!***

Newly Certified AI Facilitators

Congratulations to **Hannah Kilger** hkp1@psu.edu, AIFT, Atlantic City; Nancy Stetson was the Trainer; **Sharon Johnson** sjohnson@mhasp.org, AIFT, Philadelphia, Trainers were Ray Wells and Jeanie Cockell; and, **Christine Marlow**, cmarlow@gallup.unm.edu, AIFT, Longview, who trained with Charles Miller and Kay Weiss.

Hannah modified the interview guide for the inquiry with her core group consisting of 1st and 4th year students at Pennsylvania State University's Abington College. The Core Group identified the inquiry as *"What Creates the Best Transformational or Deep Learning Experience in the College Classroom."*

The composition of the groups was heterogeneous, including students who were at different stages in their educational experience (lower and upper classmen) and representing a varied range of majors. **Hannah** reported that the process of identifying the Provocative Propositions visibly changed the energy in the room as students who had not previously participated very much became vocal and energized by the exercise.

The inquiry exceeded **Hannah's** expectations, learning that it is possible (and a good thing) to take some risks, and to try new approaches with groups that are ordinarily unaccustomed to this level of introspection and dialogue. **Hannah's** personal best experience related was setting the stage, outlining the steps, and then watching the groups take off on their own with vibrancy and vitality! **Hannah** wrote to **Nancy Stetson** "Wow -- the students came up with incredible dream statements, and they really were able to respond to the process. **Hannah** sees potential for higher education and looks forward to reaching out to others on the college campus. Good Luck Hannah!

Sharon is a member of the Family Empowerment Satisfaction Team (FEST) and co-facilitated a session with previously certified AI Facilitator **Andrea Klein**. Sharon and her team are part of the Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania. They have embraced using AI to help foster change and quality improvement.

Also, according to **Sharon**, the provocative proposition was to integrate the skills into their daily life . professionally and personally. **Sharon's** team includes **Andrea Klein** who has embraced AI! With **Andrea's** encouragement, MHASP now has several trained and certified facilitators working to improve the services they offer through a strengths-based training approach!

Christine is the Dean of Instruction and upon her return from the AIFT, set about to introduce AI to the Chairs Council Retreat. Seeing the opportunity to use AI, **Christine** did not have time to assemble a Core Group; however, the focus for the Chairs' Retreat was to identify priorities for the coming year.

Christine stated that her wish for the inquiry was to produce an agenda for the retreat that was meaningful and relevant for all of the participants. Despite her best intentions there was a resistance at times. **Christine** requested that they draw pictures of their visions. The resistance turned to fun and involvement! As the **Chair** of this Council,

Christine plans to include the Provocative Propositions on the agenda. The commitment from the whole group is to improve IT on campus through focusing on improving communication.

Changes!

We would like to thank **Nancy Stetson** for initiating **Words Create Worlds** and for being the editors all these years.

I will do my best to live up to her high standards! Hearing from each of you on your successes and your wishes will ensure that there will be many good things to include in **Words Create Worlds**.

So, from now on, you will send your Practicum Reports to **Kathy** at Kathy@coe.net. Remember, it is never too late to send your reports to **Kathy**! And remember that your AIFT Trainers are the ones who can best coach you through your first Practicum.



Kathy

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Editor, Words Create Worlds

Conference Details – Creating Change for America

The Creative Change Institute was started by a group of educators and business people that have made a commitment to ***Creating Change for America, November 1, 2 & 3, 2007 in Houston, Texas***. This summit will bring together businesses and corporations, educational organizations, community agencies, labor organizations and non-profits . planning together to use every shred of American ingenuity to meet our challenges.

Starting one community at a time!

We believe the major focus needs to be on our communities. It is often said that the most positive change takes place where we live. Each community is so different that any plan will need to be flexible and responsive to the community rather than having an external organization or group attempt to direct them.

Dream - *Imagine More Than You Can See*

In partnership with our communities, we are dedicated to learning and finding measurable ways for community members to succeed. We accomplish this by

addressing our communities' regional and national needs and by creating environments and a culture where we can recognize opportunities and act upon them.

How do we breathe beauty and life (a new bloom) back into a national treasure (our American education promise)?

What is the role of education, business and communities to regain or maintain our edge?

Is it time to evaluate what works best? Should we change our educational systems for the future? How do we convince our students as to the opportunities that lie before them?

What will we need to look like in 10 years? In 40 years?

Are we, as a nation, ready to make the commitment?

Commitment to the American Promise

The Company of Experts, Inc. has supported and funded the *Creative Change Institute™* since 2005. The Institute has hosted three national meetings. One outcome of the Institute's three meetings is to make a commitment to schedule, plan and organize a national dialogue summit in the fall of 2007. The summit will bring together businesses and corporations, educational organizations, community agencies, labor unions and non-profits . planning together to use every shred of American ingenuity to meet our challenges.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

Bring a team.....build a Community!

The team approach is a proven success to creating an energy to mobilize teams to creating Hot Spots for change!