

What can Positive Deviance do to help reduce the high school dropout rate and increase our students' chances for success?



The California Teachers Association's Institute for Teaching cordially invites you to attend a workshop to learn about the IFT Positive Deviance Project funded by the Hewlett Foundation. The goal is to reduce African American and Latino high school dropouts.

May 28, 2009
The Turnip Rose
300 S. Flower St. Orange, CA
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Alarming high school dropout rates among African American and Latino students clearly reveal that it is not just our students, but our social and economic systems that are at-risk. The CTA Institute for Teaching received a grant from the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation to attempt to answer the following questions:

- *Why do certain African American and Latino students, with access to the same resources, remain in high school while others drop out?*
- *Are there certain student, teacher, administrator, parent and community practices and behaviors, within and outside of the school, that enable students to remain in high school?*
- *Can the strength-based behavior/social change approach, Positive Deviance, identify specific and common practices and behaviors that increase African American and Latino student retention and, therefore, reduce the number of high school dropouts?*

Positive Deviance is an approach that rests on two important assumptions: (1) that solutions to community problems already exist within the community of interest, and (2) that it is possible to find successful solutions to problems right now before all of the underlying causes are addressed.

The Positive Deviance Approach is based on the fundamental idea that in every high school there are students, teachers, families, other school employees, and members of the larger community who are helping to make the students successful in school. Positive Deviance is designed to identify behaviors and practices that keep students in school and encourages the rest of the student community to adopt them. The IFT believes the potential of positive deviance to reduce high school dropouts is vast and largely untapped.

An earlier Positive Deviance workshop in Burlingame on April 2nd attracted over 60 classroom teachers, administrators, high school students, CTA staff and leaders, as well as members and staff of the IFT Board. The response was so enthusiastic that IFT was asked to offer the program again in Southern California. You are being invited because of your work in public education or because of your work in the community to assist young people who are at risk.

For a copy of the grant, please go to <http://www.teacherdrivenchange.org/DropoutGrantHewlett.pdf>

Please join the Institute for Teaching as we begin implementation of this Grant Program-
Please RSVP to Dick Gale @Dgale@cta.org, Merri Boston @Mboston@cta.org or call 619-683-3990.