

NAWIC Region 12 Leadership Training Conference
July 18, 2009
Camarillo CA

For those of you who considered attending the NAWIC Region 12 Leadership Conference, but talked yourself out of it, you really missed a great conference.

The setting for conference could not have been more beautiful. California State University Channel Islands sits tucked up against the foothills of the Coastal Range in fertile fields and coastal oaks. The weather was perfect with clean clear skies and there was such a sense of peace on the campus. The campus previously had housed the Camarillo State mental Hospital. Some of the buildings were built in the 1930's, although the Smith Decision Center where the conference was held was a new building with amphitheatre seating. Lunch was delightful box lunches which lent to a picnic air with plenty of visiting and camaraderie to go around. It is always great to be able to catch up on what is happening in the lives of our NAWIC sisters from other chapters.

The subjects covered were so interesting and apropos as we all head into the new year's activities. Cindy Johnson, CIT, CDS spoke on Communication. This included not only what you say but how you say it: from word choice, to voice inflection and tone, to body language and engaging in active listening. She reminded us to, Keep it Simple. Keep it real. And celebrate the success of others.

Krista Wilke-Boswell, CIT spoke on PR and Marketing. Her topic addressed marketing from both business and personal aspects. Make you or your business or organization as an expert in some area or field. Take that expertise and turn it into opportunities for public speaking and networking. Krista spoke on presenting and packaging. Make sure to listen to what your client or audience wants. What are your assets and how do they add value to the other person. Make the solution address the need. And finally, follow up, do what you said you would do.

Our own Linda Young, CIT spoke on Mentoring. Anyone who knows Linda knows she is an expert in this area. Her passion is mentoring and she did an excellent job of relaying her passion to her audience. Of course the subject quickly turned to MAGIC Camp and Linda was able to pass on tidbits of information on the ins and outs of putting together a MAGIC Camp. Linda also shared from Steve Troutman's book "Teach What You Know". She shared a saying she recently heard at her granddaughter Helen's eight grade graduation. "Don't blow out someone else's candle. It does not make yours glow brighter". Wow! That really makes you stop and think! And finally, train up those coming behind you. Pass on your Knowledge.

Our Region 12 Director, Ellen Colglazier spoke about Leadership and Team building. There was so much information to glean from:
Be interested in Other's personal growth
Grow together, spend time together
Share the credit- share the solutions

Educate; Create opportunities for performance, work together for fulfillment of goals,
create a vision
Power is With people not Over people
Leaders are made by decisions and goals, not by default

Mary Ellen Ledbetter's topic was "You don't need a Title to be a Leader".
Her points were;
Leaders don't ask permission – own it – do it – seek balance
Keep sharing your vision even, even against opposition
Measure opinions; allow for influence of conscience
Had a vision
Learn to ask why
Take the task seriously, yourself lightly
Principles over politics
Direction and commitment
Clarity and Consensus – core values
Coaching

Finally Melanie Lee spoke on email etiquette with all the dos and don'ts when sending out emails. It was all very valuable information.

I am so glad I took the time to get away for the "busy-ness" of my every day life to retreat with fellow NAWIC sisters and refresh my point of view. Conferences like this give a chance to reflect on the inner self. Do I measure up to the principles put forth before me? In what areas of my life can I focus on to be that Leader I strive to be? But most of all I return refreshed and renewed and basked in the support of my NAWIC sisters.

I encourage us all to attend the regional functions that are made available to us. They are there for our enrichment. We can grow together.

Lorelee Langworthy, CIT