

## **A Model Project Kansas Project: Conative Awareness**

A model for Project: Go Ahead is a project the Center for Conative Abilities (The Center) began with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) that is now in Y3. The purpose of Kansas Project: Conative Awareness is to provide statewide educator awareness of innate individual student learning needs and to develop leadership within school districts that takes responsibility for educating entire school communities of the implications of the diverse conative abilities among faculty and students.

The Kansas superintendent of education and all of his top administrators in the KSDE participated in a leadership seminar conducted by The Center at which it was agreed that such a project was an important factor in the face of increases in disadvantaged populations, decreasing budgets, distractions caused by turmoil within the state board of education, and the KSDE commitment to improving upon the already outstanding record of academic accomplishment for Kansas public school students.

Results of the ever-broadening project are impressive. Over 32 school districts, representing every geographical area of the state have leadership actively disseminating information regarding previously unknown conative abilities. Over 2500 individuals (1494 adults and 1021 youngsters) within those districts have received validation of their personal conative abilities. Classes on conative abilities have been offered in Kansas universities, junior colleges, trade schools, programs for teachers of the disadvantaged, parent organizations, and community centers.

Accomplishments to-date for Kansas Project: Conative Awareness have been possible through collaborative efforts and in-kind contributions from The Center, Arizona State University, independent educational services centers throughout Kansas, donated assessment tools and services from Kolbe Corp, a public grant from the Teacher Enhancement Grants funded by the Kansas State Legislature, and the commitment of Kansas educators and school board members.

Y1

**Q1:** Six top professionals from the KSDE attended in-depth training on conative abilities. They went through mentored internships with The Center and five of them became Conative Experts. KSDE became a collaborating agency, providing release time, space and materials for purposes of expanding awareness of conative abilities among students and faculties.

**Q1:** 119 select representatives from 10 school districts and independent educational service centers received leadership training in conative abilities, in programs conducted by The Center, with materials provided by Kolbe Corp, facilities and release time underwritten by KSDE, and a private grant funded by the Wallace Foundation of Chicago, IL.

**Q3:** 54 superintendents, principals, school board members, and lead teachers from 32 school districts who were now collaborating agencies, enrolled in a three-day program led by The Center, and became Certified as Conative Coaches. The five Kansas Conative Experts participated in providing the training and on-going consultative assistance for them. The 54 then led programs on conative abilities for their district faculty, school boards, and parents. They also began assessing faculty and students with donated Kolbe Indexes, which were analyzed for research purposes at ASU (another collaborating agency).

Y2:

Q2: Independent Educational Service Centers, also as collaborating agencies, sponsored webinars and conducted a seminar for special education faculty, school drop out program leaders and internal staff. Additional district leaders went through training and became Certified Conative Experts for educational uses. One district leader incorporated research on conative abilities into her doctoral thesis; others began disseminating information through a wide range of potential public agencies.

Y2: Despite changes in KSDE leadership, grass roots efforts have had a multiplying effect on Kansas Project: Conative Awareness. A larger number of faculty and students were provided conative assessments, data was analyzed regarding teacher/student results and reporting of ADD/ADHD behaviors, the Conative Experts traveled throughout the state conducting awareness seminars, and The Center provided distance learning sessions through webinars and teleconferences.

Y3 Personnel changes and transfer among districts has further broadened the scope of awareness of conative abilities. Some former public school faculty who were trained by The Center are now disseminating information through their work in private schools, counseling offices, community agencies, or with university faculties.

School districts continue to use the original Conative Experts as consultants and to apply for additional faculty and staff to go through the Conative Coach program.

The Center has been able to move to a consulting and training role, providing guidance without having to physically be in Kansas to support the on-going project.

Kansas Project: Conative Awareness was presented as a model program before an international audience of Certified Conative Experts at the beginning of its Y3.