



PRESS RELEASE

'Let's Talk About It': FSU Leads The Nation In Supporting Conflict Resolution Among Youth

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By Rachel Christofel

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.-- For almost 20 years, Florida State University has taken a leadership role in promoting conflict resolution in Florida and throughout the nation. On the first annual National Conflict Resolution Day, FSU's role will be no different.

The university will host more than 100 young peer mediators for "Let's Talk About It," one of the only events in the country focusing on training elementary and middle school students in peer mediation.

The event will take place on Thursday, Oct. 20, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., in the Student Services Building, located on Woodward Avenue. After opening statements from Barbara Pariente, chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court, students from local Leon County schools will attend workshops in areas such as anger management, listening communication and the importance of diversity that will train them to proactively lead in solving conflict among their peers.

"We are delighted that Florida State University's celebration of National Conflict Resolution Day focuses on school children who are peer mediators," said President T.K. Wetherell.

"Here at FSU, we believe it is crucial for the next generation of leaders to build skills in conflict resolution, not only as a means of solving disputes in school, but also to develop values that will last a lifetime."

Student mediators Morgan Glazer and Alex Vaughn, both sixth graders at The Florida State University School, said they value the importance of conflict resolution on a daily basis. "There is less fighting in schools with mediation," said Glazer. "It helps solve the problem before it turns into a fight."

"It will help us solve problems in the real world," Vaughn added.

In addition to "Let's Talk About It," FSU continually promotes mediation

through its Student Affairs programs and services, the Human Resources Ombuds Program, the FSU Police Department and the FSU Center for Employee Assistance. Also, the FSU College of Law is affiliated with the Florida Supreme Court Dispute Resolution Center and offers an interdisciplinary graduate minor in alternative dispute resolution.

FSU's celebration of National Conflict Resolution Day joins Florida's commitment to mediation as Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has proclaimed Oct. 16-23 as Mediation Week in the state.

For more information on National Conflict Resolution Day, visit:

<http://www.acrnet.org/crday/>.



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