

Women's Perspectives: An Annual Journal of Writings by Adult Learners

Published by WE LEARN

<http://www.litwomen.org/perspectives>

Teacher's Reflecting on Their Participation

We are so excited here in San Diego. The San Diego Council on Literacy has funded my two students to come to your conference. They would like to read their essays....We are already practicing reading and we are working on what to see in Boston. Thank you and your organization for creating such a wonderful opportunity for students....We are very excited about our trip to Boston....Please let me inform you. It is unbelievable, what this trip has done for my students. Unbelievable. Thank you for this opportunity.

Follow-up...[The students] are doing very well. The opportunity to go to Boston has changed their lives.

-- Marie Doerner, Learning Disability Specialist, San Diego Continuing Education

[Our program] serves low-income, at-risk mothers and their children....Literacy is a vital component of Julie's holistic approaches to helping members achieve their goals. Over the past 2 years, JFLP has become increasingly involved in various WE LEARN projects. Our students have contributed writing and artwork to "Women's Perspectives," participated in the "Undoing the Silence" writing workshop... and spoken at the annual conference. The women have reported that their involvement in these projects has boosted their self-esteem and has made them feel more positive about both written and verbal self-expression....These are some of the ways in which WE LEARN has supported JFLP's mission of increasing literacy and self-advocacy. In addition, the activities seem to have given the women a sense of being connected to something larger and alleviated feelings of isolation in their life struggles.

-- Dorrie Nord, Julie's Family Learning Program, South Boston, MA

I just want you to know how much I appreciate that you sent two copies of the Journal. When the package arrived I called [my student], and she was so excited that she came directly to my home. (She couldn't even wait till the next day when I would've brought it to work.) She arrived with her two year-old [boy] and her boyfriend....[student] and her boyfriend sat silently on the couch paging through the journal and re-reading her essay. It was such a sweet sight. She really cherished the card you sent, and of course she was excited about the [Honors Award] check. Her local newspaper on the reservation did a huge front-page article about her achievement, and so did her college newspaper.

I know you hear many stories of how your organization has touched the lives of women, but this event (her getting published) has made a huge impact on the life of this beautiful young Native woman, her family, her college, and her tribe.

-- Tanya M. Spilovoy, Teacher, United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck, ND

... I received the two copies of *Women's Perspectives* as well as the Certificate of Participation for [student 1]....[Student 2]'s participation in WE LEARN has had so many ripple effects, here are a few that I have seen...(long list including):

Reading the *Women's Perspectives* publication has shown [Student 1 & 2], and I the names of other Ontario and Canadian literacy learners who also submitted stories to WE LEARN and were published – we didn't know about each other until we saw the full collection of stories – we will use this information to find ways to connect more as a result.

-- Nancy Friday, Teacher, AlphaPlus, Toronto, ON Canada

WE LEARN (Women Expanding Literacy Education Action Resource Network)

182 Riverside Ave. Cranston RI 02910 | 401-383-4374 | welearn@litwomen.org

www.litwomen.org/welearn.html

