

# Reach and Teach Students Who Struggle

## PROPOSAL



Youth Change Workshops

800.545.5736 | [youthchg.com](http://youthchg.com) | 275 North 3rd Street, Woodburn OR 97071

# INTRODUCTION

Your college has put enormous emphasis on helping all students reach their full potential. Like many other colleges, your school continues to see a shift in student readiness. Each year, more students enroll lacking the motivation, practical skills, and educational background they need to succeed in the college environment. Although your students have changed dramatically, the training that faculty receive may not have "kept up" with the changes.

Studies show that college faculty training is dominated by content. Faculty members are often extremely knowledgeable about their subject matter, but may not feel as well-prepared when working with students who appear or behave unmotivated, apathetic, bored, or minimally involved. Faculty may be gifted teachers but still feel that some of today's students are unresponsive and uninvolved. Instructors may even feel that some of their students have changed so much that it is becoming increasingly difficult to create an exciting, involved, successful class experience.

Youth Change Workshops provides training to educators throughout North America. Instructors tell us that they sometimes feel that they are using "yesterday's methods with today's students." These staff members report feeling frustrated that they are not having the impact and connection that they used to cultivate more easily. Some faculty describe feeling saddened by the failure and dropout rate evidenced by some students. Some instructors note that the students who fail, are often the ones who most needed what college had to offer.

Students who fail to reach their potential often share some commonalities. They may be the first in their family to reach college; they may have struggled academically in high school. These students may be part of ethnic or cultural groups that can lag behind other groups; they may have grown up having to cope with more barriers and obstacles to academic success than others.

Even the most gifted instructor can find it difficult to successfully teach students who present the types of challenges listed above. Youth Change Workshops specializes in assisting faculty members to discover specific, new techniques to bridge that gap between instructor and student. Our courses are designed to quickly target your staff's exact needs and then deliver practical, ready-to-use interventions. We have attention-grabbing, innovative teaching strategies that can improve poor motivation, negative attitudes, discouragement, poor performance, poor attendance, and problem communication skills. Our workshops are led by a mental health counselor who can show your faculty what makes their students "tick," and then show your team how to use that inside information to selected more targeted, effective interventions. These methods are especially designed to work with diverse students, potential dropouts, highly apathetic students, and when "nothing works."

# COURSES

## Overview of Courses

Youth Change courses are very different from more conventional offerings. Each Youth Change course delivers practical, ready-to-use information and active, powerful learning strategies. Instructional staff members are often tired of professional development that is solely theoretical, philosophical, or focused on students of earlier generations. Today's faculty wants real-world interventions that can have impact right away. Our courses deliver just that. We do not come and teach what we want to teach. We come and teach what your faculty wants us to teach. They are the experts on your students so we will begin your workshop by asking your team members to name the exact problems they are facing with their students. Next, we tailor the class to deliver innovative, leading-edge methods that will fit a variety of personalities, teaching styles, and sensibilities. By the end of the workshop, your staff will be "walking encyclopedias" of the newest and best interventions that exist to reach and teach students who struggle.

Our course past participants have given us 20 years worth of evaluations and comments. Full, signed letters are available for your review. Here are some typical reactions to Youth Change's workshops:

"Four years ago I took a group of teachers to your workshop. It changed my life. I gained a new understanding of the students I work with and now share your strategies as part of my new teacher training each year. Your workshop ranks as my number one ever in all my years of education." Kristie McCuston, Vice Principal, Garland, TX

"Can't wait to share your ideas with our staff. I loved the way you tailored the interventions to the type of student. It was refreshing to finally attend a workshop where

the presenter actually presented and didn't fill the workshop with 'touchy feely' activities

with little relevance." Sally McAfee, Coordinator of Alternative Education, Corvallis, OR

"I attended a workshop several years ago...5, 6 or 7 years...I don't quite remember. But I remember the impact that workshop made on me like it was yesterday. I remember you handing out little strips of paper, giving each workshop participant about 15 pieces of paper, with a wide range of problems young people face every day. Some were simply life situations, grandmother's death, argument with best friend. But some were so horrific...being molested, being hungry with no food in the future, being beaten. I realized that day that I never know what a student may be facing everyday. So thank you again for that lesson that I have kept with me every day in working with my students." Cathy Harper, Mother Lode Job Training, Sonora, CA.

"Incredibly useful. Inspiring." Caryn Curry, Counselor, Lincoln School, E. Chicago, IN

## Instructor

Veteran instructor, Ruth Herman Wells, M.S. is the author of dozens of books, videos and articles on training struggling students to succeed in school. She is the director of Youth Change Workshops, and has written four popular books for Pro Ed Publishers, one of the world's largest publishers of resources for challenged and special needs students. She writes a regular column for SEEN Magazine, and has appeared in the Child Welfare Report, The Corrections Compendium, and countless other publications. Ruth has trained staff in every imaginable setting from colleges to high schools, from Job Corps to mental health hospitals, from correctional programs to adult schools. Ruth has trained staff from the Florida Keys to the Arctic Circle. People routinely travel from as far away as Australia, Japan and the United Kingdom to learn from Ruth how to better reach and teach their students. Ruth delivers concrete, practical, cutting-edge learning interventions everywhere she goes, and she can deliver immediate, measurable results for your staff too.



Ruth Herman Wells will bring her mental health background to your workshop. Ruth has managed many types of mental health settings including independent living programs and day treatment. Her mental health insight will be the perfect match for your staff's expertise on content. Ruth's lively, hard-to-resist presentation style will encourage your staff to speak out and get involved in the presentation. Your faculty will name the problem areas they see in their students, then Ruth will deliver some of the most innovative, effective methods that exist. Ruth's methods were honed with young adults in classrooms, special ed, locked justice settings, and mental health agencies. Ruth will be prepared to provide active learning interventions for any type of student and any type of problem. Ruth specializes in solutions for poor motivation, negative attitudes, discouragement, procrastination, poor study skills, inadequate organizational skills, difficulty communicating, social skill concerns, anxiety, overwhelm, crisis, apathy, lateness, absenteeism, and poor reasoning skills. Addressing the special needs of specific students is also one of Ruth's special interests. She has methods especially designed to work well with students from diverse backgrounds, students who have difficulty learning English, and students who face multiple barriers to success in college and the work place.

Read what people say about Ruth Herman Wells:

"Bam! Pow! Instructor hits you right between the eyes with lots of new approaches, ideas and information." Patty Boland, McGrath School, Napa State Hospital, Napa CA

"We were desperate. Now there's hope" Sandra Carpenter, Teacher, Lancaster, OH

"5 hours in L.A. gridlock. Your information brought me back." Judi Hynen, School Counselor, Los Angeles, CA

## Course Descriptions and Details

### Reach and Teach Struggling Students Workshop

Participants will gain a deeper understanding of why some students struggle in college, and will learn a wide array of interactive, innovative interventions to better engender student success. Instructors will learn what to do to maximize success for students who fail to complete assignments, miss classes, are unmotivated, are uninvolved, communicate poorly, or are having difficulty integrating school into their hectic lifestyle. Specific methods will be offered for students who face regular crises, economic concerns, parenting demands, mental health issues, or lack basic educational preparation. Dozens of motivational interventional tools will be given for students who believe that they will be able to "get by" without an education and skills. All interventions offered will be ready-to-use, and geared to fit a variety of teaching styles. Many of the interventions will be particularly attention-grabbing and hard to resist so that even the most disengaged, negative students may be impacted.

Minority students sometimes fail to graduate in numbers that are far higher than students from other ethnic and cultural groups. There are special challenges facing young Latino and black students who enter the college setting. This workshop can give your staff a different vantage point for working with these class participants. Interactive devices will help faculty members evaluate their own outlook on these students, and staff will be offered learning methods that may be especially effective and powerful with diverse students who struggle to succeed in college.

Course length: Available in a variety of lengths from 90 minutes to 10 hours, in one session or multiple sessions, one day or two days, as needed to best accommodate your faculty's needs. Depending on the time frame selected, this course can provide as much as 100 strategies in 6 hours, 200 strategies in 10 hours. Note that the two day version (10 hours) encompasses all the courses detailed below, and is comprehensive. If possible, our recommendation is to schedule two days, 10 hours. This is the most cost-efficient and comprehensive training option. Shorter



training sessions are offered, and may fit your schedule better. These shorter workshops can cover the same content but in smaller blocks of time.

**Specific Outcomes:** Staff will learn a wide array of innovative, active learning interventions designed to help students who struggle, achieve better results in college. Staff will develop a deeper understanding of ethnic and cultural issues that can affect student performance, and will master methods especially designed to address those issues.

**Materials:** Youth Change will provide a master copy of our workbook for reproduction for your staff. Web-based resources will also be available, as will follow-up books, ebooks, videos and audio books.

**Warranty:** Youth Change "warranties" your faculty after our sessions have concluded. That means that your staff will be provided with a toll-free expert help number, plus access to the special Past Participant Only section of our website. Staff will be offered the chance to receive a free monthly resource newsletter via email. This email magazine will offer on-going strategies and help to reach students who struggle. Youth Change will remain an on-going resource for your faculty indefinitely. We stand behind our workshops for as long as your staff need us. We are committed to your staff and their students well beyond our presentation. We are always here to help.

**Cost:** Youth Change normally charges a flat fee that includes travel, lodging and all fees, however other arrangements can be made if you require an itemized billing plan. Youth Change normally charges by the day, up to 6 contact hours per day, but other rates and time slots can be arranged as needed. The fee for one full day with 6 contact hours, has no cap on the number of participants. Fee reductions are offered for part days. Our fee includes all travel and lodging, as well as all charges and expenses. Expanding from 6 hours (one day) to 10 hours (two days) adds just a bit to the one day fee.

To book this workshop, contact Ruth Herman Wells, Director of Youth Change, 800.545.5736, or email [dwells@youthchg.com](mailto:dwells@youthchg.com). Popular dates often fill far ahead, so contact Ruth as soon as you want to put a tentative or definite hold on your choice of days.

### Maximum-Strength Motivation-Makers Workshop

Your faculty has never seen such interactive, eye-opening motivation-making interventions like the ones we include in our popular Maximum-Strength Motivation-Makers Workshop. This course delivers surprising, new motivational methods that can reach even the most unmotivated, apathetic students. These interventions utilize every access channel that exists to strike a chord in students who lack enthusiasm and drive to succeed in school. Interventions will be provided as worksheets, posters, verbally, as class activities, as individual activities, cartoons, stories, quizzes, contests, games, experiments, experiential activities, and more.

Two examples of a lively intervention that can be used verbally, or as a poster or worksheet are shown at right. Little explanation is needed for the interventions pictured. The small print at the bottom says "Think this poster is scary. Try life without a diploma." These dynamic, unexpected methods can leave students off-balance and actually reconsidering their assumptions about the value of college. Like many of our interventions, these methods can be altered endlessly to become a technique that precisely fits the instructor, classroom, and student. For example, the intervention can be changed to say "All Jobs Now Require a College Degree," or Skills or Reading or Computer Skills or Writing Skills, and so on. Many of our interventions are such fluid, flexible tools, that they are only limited by your staff's imagination.



Other methods will teach students that each degree "doubles the dollars" they earn, and show minority group members that education is the fastest, most guaranteed route to equal pay, and financial success in work and life. Your staff will also master state-of-the-art interventions to maintain students who fail or leave college due to competing interests, crises, distractions, parenting obligations, and personal problems. These methods are so lively, so unexpected and so vibrant that these devices can effect change when conventional approaches fail.

Specific methods will also be offered for students who face regular crises, economic concerns, parenting demands, mental health issues, or lack basic educational preparation. Dozens of motivational interventional tools will be given for students who believe that they will be able to "get by" without an education and skills. All interventions offered will be ready-to-use, and geared to fit a variety of teaching styles. Many of the interventions will be particularly attention grabbing and hard to resist so that even the most disengaged, negative students may be impacted. Since minority students sometimes fail to graduate in numbers that are far higher than others, this course offers specialized strategies that are designed to have special impact on these high risk members of your community.

Course length: Available in a variety of lengths from 90 minutes to 3 hours, in one session or multiple sessions, as needed to best accommodate your faculty. Depending on the time frame selected, this course can provide as much as 50 or more strategies in 3 hours. Note that this course can be included in the 6-10 hour versions, or multiple session versions of the Reach and Teach Students Who Struggle workshop listed above.

Specific Outcomes: Staff will learn a vast assortment of more effective active interventions, all designed to help students who appear unmotivated, apathetic, bored or disengaged. Staff will develop a deeper understanding of ethnic and cultural issues that can affect student performance, motivation, demeanor, conduct, and attitude. Faculty members will master active intervention methods especially designed to address those issues.

Materials: Youth Change will provide a master copy of our workbook for reproduction for your staff. Web-based resources will also be available, as will follow-up books, ebooks, videos and audio books.

Warranty and Cost as shown above.

Questions about this workshop? Contact instructor Ruth Herman Wells directly at 1-800-545-5736 or email [dwells@youthchg.com](mailto:dwells@youthchg.com). Ruth will provide any information you need prior to booking.

### School Skills Training for Struggling College Students Workshop

It is probably one of the biggest oversights in education yet it generally remains unnoticed. All schools require students to have school skills but few schools teach them those skills. Students can be present K through 12th grade yet never be taught the nuts and bolts of how to be a successful, motivated student. Certainly K through 12 teachers offer reminders to students on how to conduct themselves, but few schools and teachers actually provide step-by-step instruction to students on why is school important, how do you write down an assignment, how do you complete homework, how do you arrive at school prepared, and so on. In essence, school skills are expected in nearly every educational environment but few of these settings ever provide students with the training they may need to meet the school's expectations. Many college faculty may feel that they are working with people who don't look, act, or sound like students. A college's expectations for students can go unmet if students lack the skills to meet those expectations. That is why so many students fail in college. That statement can particularly apply to some diverse students, as well as students who have faced challenges and barriers.

This workshop introduces the concept of school skills training. The methods included in this course can rapidly transform unprepared, disorganized, unmotivated students into more prepared, more organized, more committed students. Active, effective intervention methods will be provided for homework management, communication problems, managing distractions, reasoning, becoming and staying motivated, appreciating the value of school, school and

classroom conduct, requesting help from instructors, study skills, test skills, organizational techniques, discipline, managing procrastination, coping with stress and anxiety, interacting with faculty, note-taking skills, attendance and punctuality, attitude, and class discussion skills. Strategies for other school skills problem areas will also be offered as requested by faculty members.

If staff systematically use the school skills training methods included in this course, they may see clear improvement in the behavior and attitude of students who struggle. Faculty may feel that they are now working with more motivated, prepared students. Examples will be offered detailing how other educational settings have applied school skills training, and their results will be shared. These examples may be ideal for adaptation and application at Southwestern Illinois College. Special attention will be offered for diverse students who struggle, as well as other students who are at highest risk of failing to complete their education. As a result, faculty will be especially well-prepared to help those students who may need help the most. Because this workshop targets students who are most likely to fail, those high risk students should evidence the greatest gains if workshop techniques are systematically applied.

Course length: Available in a variety of lengths from 90 minutes to 3 hours, in one session or multiple sessions, as needed to best accommodate your faculty. Depending on the time frame selected, this course can provide as much as 75 or more strategies in 3 hours. Note that this course can be included in the 6-10 hour versions, or multiple session versions of the Reach and Teach Students Who Struggle workshop listed above.

Specific Outcomes: Staff will learn specific, active methods to assist struggling students to succeed in college. Staff will acquire a wide assortment of targeted interventions that are designed to turnaround students who are at high risk of failure or other negative outlooks. Faculty members will master school success methods that are designed to effectively assist diverse students, and others who are at risk of failure or other negative outcomes. Faculty members will become well-equipped to use new, more effective methods to rapidly assist struggling students to turnaround problems with preparation, testing, study skills, attendance, punctuality, attitude, motivation, communication, and related areas.

Materials: Youth Change will provide a master copy of our workbook for reproduction for your staff. Web-based resources will also be available, as will follow-up books, ebooks, videos and audio books.

Warranty and Cost as show above.

Questions about this workshop? Contact instructor Ruth Herman Wells directly at 1-800-545-5736 or email [dwells@youthchg.com](mailto:dwells@youthchg.com). Ruth will provide any information you need prior to booking.

## Additional Course Details

### Speaker Bio

Veteran trainer Ruth Herman Wells, M.S. began her career as a counselor working in locked mental health and educational settings with the most severely disturbed and troubled youth and young adults in Oregon. She helped create and manage a wide range of innovative programs for problem and difficult young adults, youth and children. Ruth is also the author of dozens of landmark books, audio books and ebooks on working with violent, withdrawn, angry, delinquent, homeless and abused young adults, children and youth. Ruth is the founding Director of Youth Change Workshops, and the creator of Youth Change's award-winning Problem Kid Problem-Solver website, which has become one of the internet's most popular sites for educators. Ruth is also a columnist for SEEN Magazine, the leading educational print magazine for educators in the eastern U.S.

Ruth is probably best known for her must-see behavior change posters, and for landmark behavior intervention books like Maximum-Strength Motivation-Makers, Education: Don't Start the Millennium Without It, Turn On the Turned-Off Student, and The Last Chance School Success Guide. Over the past couple decades, her Breakthrough Strategies to Teach and Counsel Troubled Youth Workshop has been invited to conferences, institutes, symposiums,

colleges, and universities all over North America. Ruth has been a longtime contributor to industry publications, and for the past few decades, her books, posters, and work has been featured and reviewed by countless print and internet newspapers, journals and magazines. In 2008, one of Ruth's books was named by the Dictionary of Mental Health as one of the Top 100 Books on Domestic Violence.

In her 30 years as a counselor, Ruth has seen thousands of students who struggle in school, home and community. She has traveled North America for the past two decades speaking to educators, counselors, therapists, psychologists, instructors, professors, social workers, college faculty, special ed teachers, and court staff. Ruth speaks at conferences, school districts, agencies, universities, colleges, schools, community centers, colleges, and programs. She has taught during blizzards in places like Columbus, Ohio and Hamilton, Montana. She has traveled to remote sites like Kotzebue, Alaska, north of the Arctic Circle. She has spoken in locations as diverse as Grand Falls-Windsor, Newfoundland, Canada, post-Katrina New Orleans, Louisiana, and Miami, Florida. Wherever you are, Ruth knows you and what you face. She knows and understands your struggling students, and she is going to help you transform them into students that succeed.

### About Youth Change Workshops

For more than twenty years, Youth Change Workshops has been one of the nation's leading providers of professional development training for educators. Learn more about us on our website, [www.youthchg.com](http://www.youthchg.com). We are located at 275 North Third Street, Woodburn, Oregon 97071. Reach us toll-free at 800.545.5736. Our fax is 503.982.7910. Email our Director, Ruth Herman Wells, M.S. at [dwells@youthchg.com](mailto:dwells@youthchg.com).

For two decades, our workshop participants have rated our sessions as over 9 on a scale of 1 to 10. We want your event participants to agree so we are happy to answer any questions prior to booking our workshop.

After your event, we will stand behind your staff with our never-ending warranty. We are always available to your team members to assist them with expert help to best manage any concerns that develop with your students.

# Youth Change Workshops

New Solutions to Turnaround Struggling Students

1.800.545.5736    [dwells@youthchg.com](mailto:dwells@youthchg.com)    [www.youthchg.com](http://www.youthchg.com)