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When All Hope is Gone, Trust Then Believe: “At Risk” or “At Potential”?

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"At Risk" or "At Potential?"

Dr. Erica Pooler, Seminole County School and Seminole County Sheriffs Office



Philosophy

If we view students as "AT POTENTIAL" rather than "AT RISK," they will begin to live up to the expectations. Students do better when they know better. Providing high expectations, genuine concern, accountability, tools for success and exposure, all students can succeed and reach their maximum potential.

Purpose

Poverty is a constant issue in our society. EPA Erica Pooler & Associates, and Seminole County Schools work with students who are homeless, on probation, house arrest, expelled, alternatively placed, teenage parents and prior dropouts to find the keys to unlock their greatest potential.

Procedures

Every student is met with high expectations, genuine support, exposure to the world beyond the classroom and their communities, individualized mentoring and data checks, treatment team meetings, youth summits, motivational speakers and workshops. This multi level of consistent support has been the deciding factor of whether students succeed or fail. We view each student holistically and work tirelessly to meet their individual needs.

Exposure

It is the belief of EPA that students labeled as "AT RISK," should be exposed to the world around them in order to make informed decisions about their future options. Our students have visited construction sites, Bethune Cookman University, Seminole State College, Full Sail, Construction Career Explorations, Paul Mitchell Cosmetology, University of Central Florida, Le Cordon Bleu, Southern Technical College, Sea World, Kennedy Space Center, workshops and summits.

When all hope is gone,
we teach them to trust and believe



Proactive, not Reactive

Students are counseled and met with daily. Students are clear of the expectations and work diligently to meet and exceed expectations. Students have learned to own their data utilizing portfolios and individualized tracking sheets. Students, teachers, administrators, probation officers and parents play a big part in the decision making process with each child.

Professional Development

Intensive Development and Cultural Awareness is conducted at each school site and location. The arts and sciences of education are taught and implemented using best practices and monitoring. Mission and Vision is the center moving force to reiterate what we want to accomplish with our students and how we plan to do so. The study of the brain and how students process information will be developed through guided workshops, summits, PLC's presentations and instructions by experts in the field.

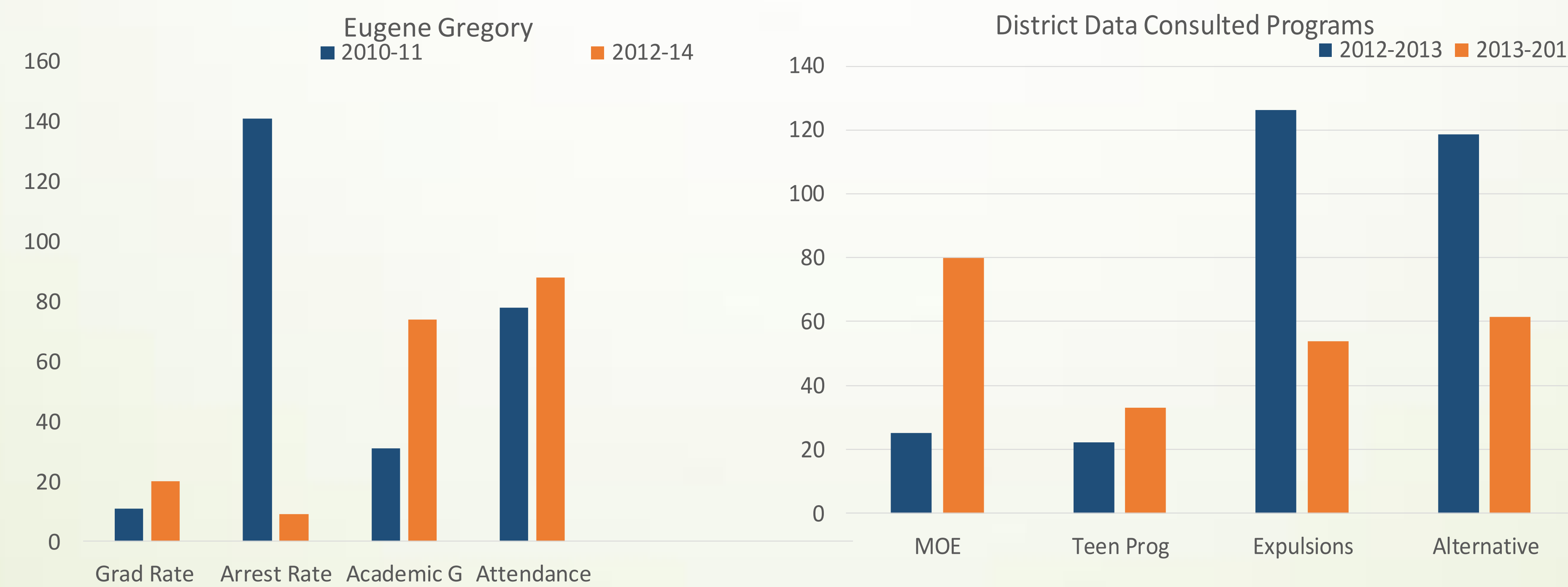
Conclusion

It takes a Village to Empower, uplift and most importantly educate our youth today. They are indeed "At Potential and Not At Risk." They will continue to live up or down to our expectations. The Cards of Life, reveals the power of building positive relationships, teaching students to lower their brick walls, exposing them beyond the four corners of their neighborhoods and empowering students to own their data and advocate for their education. The Cards of Life Workshops and Youth Summits have been beneficial in our continued success in Seminole County and throughout central Florida.

Abstract

EPA and SCPS Utilizes school, home and community collaboration to empower students to achieve their maximum potential in academic development, personal growth, and career development while reflecting on their past, present and future, enabling them to exceed all expectations. Our consultation services work with the school board and sheriffs office to collaborate on effectively impacting student achievement by providing an academically sound education, positive behavior supports, consequences and structure, and life-long learning opportunities for students to be productive members in society. This collaboration has decreased arrests, alternative assignments and expulsions while increasing academic gains, graduation rates and recidivism. Prevention and intervention programs such as Men of Excellence are incorporated throughout local districts as well , and intervention programs.

Data



Dr. Erica Pooler & Associates (Dr. Barbara Kirby-Bentley) is committed to making significant changes in programs that serve "At Risk/At Potential" Youth. Graduation rates in Juvenile Detention Center, Eugene Gregory, and John E. Polk Corrections increased from 4 to 64 in a 2.5 year period. In house arrest rates in consequential unit decreased from 141 to 9 in a one year period. Pre and Post assessments demonstrate a 50% increase in academic supports using PD strategies across curriculum lines and Data Chats with students. District wide Alternative Placement and Expulsions have decreased in alternative settings across all levels. Men of Excellence provides mentorships and Exposure to Black Males in middle and high schools for prevention and intervention. A commitment system is in place to provide support through high school and college scholarships. Stay Center (truancy prevention) decrease in absences in middle and high school. Teen Parent Program provides daycare to keep teen parents in school. No excuses to fail!

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- Dr. Barbra Kirby-Bentley -Discipline
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- Pernell Bush: Entrepreneur; Marine Veteran – Determination
- Kenneth Bentley – Community Involvement
- Celina Hill – Life Skills and Personal Development

