

Spotlight on ILA Members

ILA Members are doing amazing leadership work around the world, from starting new degree programs to nurturing young people who make a difference, from running innovative workshops and seminars to fostering organizational change. We are pleased to shine an ILA spotlight on the programs of our members. If you would like to nominate yourself or another ILA institutional member to be featured on these pages, please contact ILA at ila@ila-net.org.

Spotlight on The Desmond Tutu Peace Centre :

Leadership Program Targets Emerging Leaders

On 14 July, 20 outstanding, young Capetonians received the Desmond Tutu Emerging Leadership Award from the Archbishop Desmond Tutu during a gala ceremony at the Mount Nelson Hotel. The diverse achievements of these youngsters, all high school students aged between 15-19, include initiating peace clubs, conducting peer mediation, running HIV/AIDS awareness classes, teaching Sunday school and starting sports and cultural dancing groups. What they all have in common is a solid commitment to improving their communities and “keeping kids off the streets.”

While everyone enjoyed the ceremony, the biggest prize for the Awardees, however, was the chance to interact privately with the Archbishop Emeritus in a two-hour debate. During this debate, the youngsters asked questions rang-



ing from how they can participate to improve South Africa, how they can motivate others, and also about Tutu’s involvement in the struggle for democracy and equal rights for all. The Awardees, a highly diverse group representing a wide range of communities and backgrounds and cultures, all expressed great joy and satisfaction with the opportunity to learn from a luminary such as Tutu, and agreed that the meeting with a Nobel laureate had motivated them to continue and deepen their community involvement.

The Awardees have also had two opportunities to engage in debates with peers from other countries. The first was a video link-up with the Desmond Tutu Emerging Leadership Awardees from Seattle and Milwaukee in the USA. While the main topic of discussion was leadership, including what it means to be an “emerging

leader,” a wide range of current affairs issues was also debated. In spite of the limited time frame, the participants clearly enjoyed and learned from the debate. The second international debating event involved an Internet-based discussion game used simultaneously by 50 Norwegian and 50 South African high school learners. In this game, called Global Island, the participants acted as parliamentarians in a fictitious country with a dictator causing havoc in a neighboring country. The players had to debate what to do about the dictator, and voted on various resolutions proposed by their peers. Because of the real-time interaction across the continents, this debate brought out a considerable level of enthusiasm amongst the participants, and most of them recommended that the game be made available to a much broader audience.

For more information, visit the Desmond Tutu Peace Centre Web site or write to info@tutu.org

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