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## **DEF Completes Fourth Series of Summer Educator Workshops at Stanford; Adds Advanced Decision Skills to Course Offerings**

### ***Results are In: Program and Materials Score High Marks with Attendees***

**Palo Alto, Calif.—August 25, 2010—**Teachers, youth counselors, and administrators from across the U.S. gathered at Stanford University in June to learn more about decision education and how to incorporate decision skills training into their programs. For the 2010 on-campus workshop series, offered in collaboration with the Stanford Center for Professional Development, DEF presented two 2 ½-day courses—*Decision Quality for Educators*, plus a new advanced course, *Decision Quality for Educators: Part II*.

This week, the foundation released the results of attendee evaluations which indicate that both workshops were highly rated in terms of content, activities, and relevance to classroom needs. The following are representative comments from participants:

- *The knowledge and models presented in this course are essential to the development of healthy people and happy lives.*
- *[The workshop] re-defines my commitment to helping kids make better decisions.*
- *The information was incredibly valuable and the content was relevant to my work.*
- *Decision Education is an MBA for life.*
- *Decision Quality applies to my school's faculty and students. I hope to work with both these groups.*

On a six-point scale, overall course experience received a mean rating of 5.25 for the fundamentals course and 5.47 for the advanced course.

During the workshops, participants tackled adolescent-relevant decision problems using empirical tools and decision-making principles, as well as team case studies. They also explored sample lesson plans and materials suitable for use in a variety of classroom settings. Several nationally-known educators served as guest speakers, including Jean Orvis, founder of the Seattle Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Stanford Professor of Education Denise Pope.

*Decision Quality for Educators*, DEF's popular basics course, has been offered at Stanford, in the Philadelphia area, and at various onsite teacher trainings across the country for the past four years. The advanced course was created to deepen educators' understanding of decision-making skills and principles.

Other courses in the DEF educator workshops series include *Teaching Decision Skills in Humanities* and *Improving Advisory and Counseling with Decision Quality*. With the exception of the new advanced course, all are available online through Stanford. Educators wishing to further enhance their understanding of decision skills can earn a Certificate in Decision and Risk Management with an Emphasis in Decision Education by completing a set

of required courses and electives from within the broader Stanford Strategic Decision and Risk Management program offered by the Stanford Center for Professional Development (Visit <http://scpd.stanford.edu/educators/> for more details about the program.)

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About DEF: The Decision Education Foundation (DEF) was founded in 2001 to promote, enable and support the development of good decision skills by today's youth. The foundation develops classroom-ready materials and works with select schools and youth organizations, training teachers interested in making decision education a part of their curricula. For more information about DEF, visit <http://www.decisioneducation.org>.

About the Stanford Center for Professional Development: The Stanford Center for Professional Development connects professionals worldwide to the research and teaching of Stanford University faculty in the School of Engineering and related academic departments. Qualified individuals may study for Master of Science degrees on a part-time basis, pursue graduate certificates and professional certificates, take individual graduate courses and professional courses, participate in workshops, view free online seminars and more.