

YOU HAVE TO REACH THE UNREACHABLE

By Timothy J. Muise

Much like the family supper table teachers have to find a way to have a daily communication and “check up” on what their students are up to. Drugs are rampant in the school systems, as teachers well know, and we must be able to offer developing young men and women non-traditional options in the educational curriculum. Many “counseling on the go” type programs, Outward Bound and Project Adventure based models, can involve the marginalized and socially ostracized students in self-esteem building activities which open up options and engage minds; minds which may otherwise be engaged by the lure of drugs and anti-social lifestyles. “Hope” must be “taught” and “I Can” attitudes instilled through these non-traditional learning experiences. When teachers build the trust of their students they can sit them down, in small groups or one on one, and evaluate the progress of the individual noticing red flags and signs of smoke where there may be fire. It is incumbent upon the teacher to request permission from School Boards and Superintendents for such progressive and innovative learning experiences. This will break the tragic “school to prison pipeline”. Lives are literally at stake. The lives of our children!