

ESSMAN/RESEARCH

DMACC

High School Drop-Outs

#9534

Focus Group Discussion Guide

Monday, April 21, 2003 @ 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

WELCOME

- Introduction of Moderator, Tamara Kenworthy, Essman/Research
- Purpose of Discussion
 - Conducting research with students who have left high school without graduating within the past four years
 - Results will assist our client in helping students to be better prepared in meeting the challenges they face.
- Ground Rules
 - Audiotaping
 - Need everyone to speak up
 - Be objective — not about who said what, rather what is said
 - Share opinions one at a time
 - Confidentiality — please express candid and honest opinions
- Participant Introductions
 - Name, share a little about yourself

General Discussion

Let's begin by talking about your high school experience.

(Develop a list.....)

- What were your expectations for high school?
- What were your parents' expectations for you in high school?
- Do you think your high school had expectations for you?
- Did you like high school? Why/Why not?

- Did you believe that you fit in at high school? Why/Why not?
- Were you involved with extra-curricular activities in high school? What types of activities were you involved with?
 - Were there activities that you would have liked to be involved with that you weren't?
 - What were the barriers for not being involved in certain activities?
- Did you get along with your teachers, administrators and counselors in high school? If not, would it have made a difference if you had?
- What would you have changed about your experience in high school?
- What would have made a difference for you to want to stay in high school?
- Have you ever completed a high school diploma or earned a GED? If so, where did you complete it? When did you complete it?

Now let's talk about where you're at today.

- How many of you are currently working?
 - Full-time, what type of employment?
 - Part-time, what type of employment?
 - Not working,
 - If not, what do you do?
 - Are you seeking employment?
 - Homemaker
 - Student
- Are you satisfied with your current employment or status?
- What would you change about your current employment or status?
- What type of jobs are you most interested in?
- Do you believe there are employment barriers?
 - What are those barriers?
 - What would help you to overcome those barriers?
- What steps do you believe you need to take to achieve your employment goals?
 - What education do you need?

- If you could get assistance in order to get employment, what assistance would you like? Would you need?
 - If not mentioned, probe with:
 - Knowledge on what opportunities exist
 - Networking, how to find a job
 - Understanding aptitude, what does your personal skill set look like
 - Training for new career, job
 - What education do you need?
 - Interviewing techniques, understanding the hiring process
 - Personal finance issues, budgeting, saving, etc.
 - Probe for others.....
- If assistance were available, what organizations or occupations do you believe could help you through this process?
- Let's talk about if you were to get assistance throughout this process.
 - What setting would you prefer?
 - 1-on-1, classroom, small group, etc.
 - As far as location, what would be your preferences?
 - What time of day is most convenient?
 - Is day care an issue – what would be helpful to you in addressing this issue while looking for work?

CLOSING

Thank you!
Incentive check for you.