

February 24, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Heather Campbell-Lieberman. I am a National Board Certified English teacher currently working for Butler Tech in the Lakota East Freshman building. I have spent the last thirteen years working with at-risk youth in the Cincinnati area. I first came into contact with the Healthy Visions organization at least eight years ago when they presented to my students in the high school I was working in at the time. Their impact on the students was so significant that their presenters became a part of our curriculum each year. Many of our tougher students needed to hear their message a second and a third time to get buy-in.

The students appreciate the practical information being communicated by mature, attractive young people. They actually listen and ask questions. If a teacher broaches a topic like the physical or emotional consequences of sex, the teens tune out. With the Healthy Visions presentations they tune in, are actively engaged, asking questions. Often they take advantage of the Facebook and other social media presence HV has to ask follow-up questions and to get support for tough decisions.

Healthy Visions remains a topic of conversation amongst the kids long after the presentations are over. They continue to wear their "change your story" bracelets and I hear them encourage each other to make better decisions. Healthy Visions often pops up in their reflective essays on value systems, problem solving and decision making. I am able to remind them to use HV as a resource by leaving the website and contact information up on my board. I tell them- if you can't talk to anyone else about what is going on reach out to the lifeline that HV has for you.

A lifeline is the appropriate term for what Healthy Visions offers my students. It is part of their favorite unit of the year. They come away feeling empowered to make better decisions- in all areas of their lives. I recently had a young woman who was a former student ask me, "You still have Healthy Visions in your class right?" She was relieved to find out I do. She expressed that she felt they had changed the direction of her life that week her senior year. She said, "Every kid needs them. Everyone needs their message."

From the profound impact I have witnessed over the years, I agree. That is why I joined the HV board in order to support their mission and to help them to better reach more students in more classrooms. I bring my experience with the program and with students from all walks of life to help to tweak the message and to support the presenters who are life-skills teachers in many classrooms. I want to be a part of the lifeline that has supported and saved countless kids.

Sincerely,

Heather Campbell-Lieberman
National Board Certified Teacher
Healthy Visions Board Member