Dear

The idea for a forum for leaders involved in NSIEE-related experiential programs and those in experiential learning in the health disciplines has been evolving in our minds for several years. The two of us developed the following idea as a way to convene creative friends from these two groups within experiential learning.

This letter invites you to join with about a dozen people at the National Humanities Center in the Research Triangle Park of North Carolina on July 30, August 1, or August 3, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. to begin this discussion.

Potential topics for the days explorations can include:

1. Assumptions we each make about the benefits of learning in service settings, and the benefits to service delivery by having conscious learning linked to the service.
2. What are the organizational linkage mechanisms for university-community agency relationships? (Affiliation Agreements? Individualized Agreements? Others?)
3. How do experiential learning programs link high school, college, and professional training with on-the-job or career learning? That is, if continued learning is a must for survival, what is the significance of experiential learning as the glue?
4. What are the research agendas, operating and anticipated, in the NSIEE membership and in the health disciplines?
5. What information base now exists in each arena (publications, studies, national organizations, etc.)?
6. Bragging Time - Time for each participant to tell about an exciting, qualitative venture he or she is involved with.
7. Other topics you would suggest (questions, issues, challenges, etc.)

Possible outcomes of such an event could be:

a. Identifying potential linkages across the health and non-health boundaries within the experiential learning movement.

b. An essay or two elaborating on issues reviewed and inviting others to initiate similar discussions.

c. Continued gathering around specific themes.
Our expectation is that you will have crisper and more targeted topics for discussion, so please let us know of them. The agenda can be quite fluid for a while. We will plan to communicate in early July about who is interested and what their main interests are. One exercise you may want to do is to write or talk out for yourself what it is you have to tell someone or want to know from someone in the other group.

The arrangements would be simple. Each of us would be responsible for our own travel. Wake AHEC will host a lunch. The National Humanities Center is a quiet, relaxed spot for such a meeting.

Your response will be appreciated as soon as possible. We hope for a group of 10-12 people from some diverse backgrounds. Please give Jane (919-834-7536) or me (919-755-8522) a call or send a note to let us know if you can come and on what dates you prefer (July 30, August 1 or August 3).

Peace,

Bob Sigmon

Jane Kendall

BS/bw
July 25, 1984

Dear

Bob Sigmon and I are delighted that you will be joining us for a day of discussion at the National Humanities Center on August 3. While the session will actually begin at 10:00, please come early if your transportation allows.

Enclosed is a rough agenda designed to help us get to know each other, exchange and explore questions of common concern, and increase our awareness of each other's resources. We have tried to keep it simple and only structured enough to initiate the discussions on the "questions" you each sent (also enclosed).

Please note that you will be asked to offer a 20-minute course to 2-5 other participants during the Mini-versity session at 1:15. Give some thought to a topic on which you would like to teach a mini-course. You may find that the morning sessions stimulates other possibilities for your course also. The only restriction is that it needs to be related to experiential learning.

Also enclosed are two lists which together show the folks who are planning to come. We are pleased that the response has been stronger than the "dozen" that we initially envisioned. Bob sent maps with his last mailing, but let either of us know if you need another one.

We will finish at 3:30 p.m. Lunch and refreshments will be provided by the Wake Area Health Education Center (thanks to Bob and staff for this).

We are looking forward to seeing you on the 3rd for what promises to be a stimulating day for all of us.

Sincerely,

Jane C. Kendall
Executive Director

Enclosures
JCK/aw
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NATIONAL HUMANITIES CENTER
AUGUST 3, 1984

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"Generalist" Experiential Educators
Experiential Education Forum
National Humanities Center
August 3, 1984

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"QUESTIONS" submitted by forum participants

Conceptual/paradigm issues about work and learning:

Nature, meaning, and value of work?
How do you bring about change in the current system?
What are the important dynamics for student learning and continuing education as students and practitioners serve/work in day-to-day settings together with clients?
How can students have more control of their learning and work activities as a means to self-responsibility, healthy styles of living, and high moral behavior in society?
The workplace is the primary learning site for all citizens. What does this mean for what colleges and universities should be doing? What should the workplace be doing about this?

Questions from undergraduate liberal arts folks seeking responses from health professionals:

What is the role of the undergraduate in health science experiences?
How can wholistic experiential learning opportunities be established for undergraduates when students lean more toward traditional, discipline-bound, didactic educational opportunities?
Where are and who are the health professionals with "quality" value orientations with whom undergraduates can spend time in forming their own values?
Do generalists have a place in a system of specialists?
How can experiential learning be more of a means for promoting personal and social health?
How might a consortium-type effort for colleges arranging health-related internships work to support health concerns and needs?

Nuts-and-bolts internship questions:

What are the criteria for evaluating the "worthwhileness" of internships for which academic credit is awarded?
How are internship placements for students most effectively developed in health settings?
What are the perceived benefits of such experiences to students?

Issues in medical education and health professional education:

What are the state-of-the-art developments in medical education/health professional education?
How do you evaluate the effectiveness of continuing education?
AGENDA

Experiential Education Forum
National Humanities Center, August 3, 1984

9:00 Informal discussions for early arrivers
10:00 Introduction and Overview – Bob Sigmon and Jane Kendall
10:15 Interview
The health sciences experiential educators will have 40 minutes to interview the generalist experiential educators, and then vice versa. Purpose is to identify: who you are, what work you do, what issue(s) in experiential education most concern you, and what your most important current work is. Think ahead about ways your "group" can draw this information from the other group.

11:45 Resource Information Sharing
An opportunity for each person to have 1 minute to tell what information, materials, samples, and other resources he/she has that may be of help to the rest of us.

12:15 Lunch
And time to peruse the materials brought by other participants, write up your course description for the Mini-versity (due at 12:45), and get further acquainted.

1:15 Mini-versity
Twenty-minute mini-courses on topics for which we each want to share what we know or for which we want to have a focused discussion. Experiential learning techniques welcomed. (3 rounds of 5 courses each)

2:30 General Group Discussion – led by Bob Sigmon
To explore the "questions" that need further attention, to clarify further the themes and issues that emerged during the day, and to plot any further activities desired.

3:30 Home again