

eliminating racism empowering women

ywca

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Regarding Elena DeVos and Mary Holmes: Communications Camp

I was fortunate to be a part of a seminar series offered at The BOC Group, Inc., while I served as Associate General Counsel in BOC's Process Plants Division and subsequently as the attorney responsible for major plant construction for BOC Process Systems. As a result of attending several communications camps that took place during the course of my career, I saw my communications skills greatly improve. I already was communicating and presenting at what I considered to be a high level of skill, so I really was surprised at how much better at communicating I became as a result of the camps. I now understand a person can always improve their communications skills and there is no end point when it comes to writing well, listening with attention, or presenting one's ideas clearly. Those lessons remain with me today.

From the outset, it was clear that communications camp would be fun, but it would also be demanding. That dual requirement made all the effort I put forth feel worthwhile. Now that I am President of the YWCA of Central New Jersey, I have frequent opportunities to utilize the communications skills I learned in the camps. I find especially useful the individual feedback Dr. DeVos gave me on my presentations skills and the relaxation exercises Mary Holmes taught on tape for the seminar participants. I now have more confidence in speaking to large audiences due to the competencies I developed in the camps.

When I met with both Mary Holmes and Elena DeVos, I saw how their love of learning and people gives them the remarkable ability to design and deliver programs that meet the highest standards. I am happy to speak with people who are considering them as facilitators in their organizations. Whatever your group members' learning needs—from the difficult skills of writing, speaking, and listening, to staying on topic, to delivering compelling talks, to writing clear documents to listening better—with Mary and Elena they will learn and experience methods that can transform their skills and make these tasks much easier to do well.

Sincerely,

Patricia E. Fleming
President, YWCA of Central New Jersey