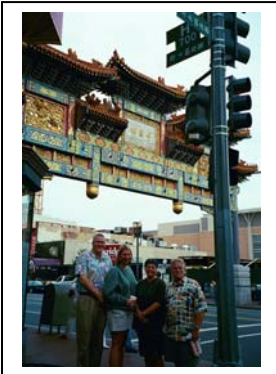


Association of Recovery Schools Celebrates Completion of the First Year.

About 16 months ago Andy Finch, Director of City High, Nashville Tennessee, was approached by staff of the Center for Substance Treatment (CSAT) who were seeking information on school programs that provided support to young people in recovery. Shortly thereafter he called me and pitched me the idea of forming an organization for schools and programs like StepUP and City High School. He discussed the possibility for bringing these schools together with the support of CSAT to form The Association of Recovery Schools.



The staff of StepUP from the left included Past Director and Founder of StepUP Don Warren, Sue Karber a StepUP student, our new Director, Patrice Salmeri, our and Dave Hadden the Assistant Director. It was a busy time of both work and fun, meeting others from across the country who prepare youth for adult life and the world of work as they deal with recovery issues. Sue Karber landed a job at the conference and has since left us for professional life as a Special Education teacher at City High in Nashville. We miss her but we are proud to have had the opportunity of working with her.

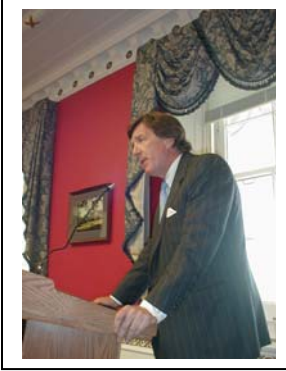


States Represented included, Arizona, California, Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin, Washington

Earlier in preparation of the conference, we updated our research on sober schools; many have been operating in isolation without knowledge of other schools. By the time the conference began we had representation from 3 colleges and 18 high school programs. What we found is that the programs have developed with varied formats, are public and private, most are abstinence based, have few resources, and have caring committed staff. The work of these school falls in between the efforts of prevention programs and treatment programs but these schools for the

most part are not recognized as part of the continuum of care. What these schools actually do is to provide a supportive environment where gains of treatment are given a chance to become stable, as they provide and education, vocational guidance, peer support, assist youth in resolving legal issues, and help them build friendships around norms that provide clear boundaries around alcohol and other drug use.

Our Champions in both Minnesota and Washington DC have been the Wellstone family and the Ramstad Family. During the conference Jim Ramstad and the Johnson Institute Foundation held a reception on Capitol Hill.



Jim Ramstad who is a public advocate of recovery and of sober schools in Minnesota reached out to our fledgling organization. We know that we will see him again whenever schools that are making a difference for recovering youth get together.

Paul Williams, singer songwriter, and advocate of recovery schools also attended our conference to give his show of support to our effort.

During that time John Magnuson, the past Chair of the StepUP Advisory Board made his transition to Johnson Institute Foundation to continue his work in supporting treatment, recovery and programs that are making a real difference

During that time, Laurie Duncan McWethy, a mother supportive to the efforts of schools who work with recovery, stood with us in support of our efforts. The Mc Wethy family was with us again for Augsburg College Commencement Spring 2003. It truly has been a year of promise,

On July, 14-17, 2003, The Association of Recovery Schools will be convening at Augsburg College for the Second Annual Conference. We look forward to the next stages of growth for our organization, as we carry the vision of recovery, seeing the promise of these productive young people we serve. Please check out the following web links for information on ARS