



Respectful Alliances

Inspired Staff Teams and Positive Peer Cultures

The book *Reclaiming Youth at Risk* by Augustana University professors Larry K. Brendtro, Martin Brokenleg, and Steve Van Bockern introduced the Circle of Courage medicine wheel showing traditional Native American values of Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity. Inspired by Indigenous cultures that deeply respect children, these principles are now validated by research on resilience, neuroscience, and youth development. Grounded in Circle of Courage values and needs, these two certification courses transform trauma into resilience:

Response Ability Pathways (RAP) — Restoring Bonds of Respect

RAP training provides all who care about and work with young people the practical tools to respond to needs instead of reacting to problems. —Lesley du Toit, Pretoria, South Africa

This is a basic certification course for all who work with youth. RAP employs three natural, brain-based helping strategies: *Connecting* for support, *Clarifying* challenges, and *Restoring* respect. These relational tools for talking with persons in conflict replace coercion with communication. While there are many crisis-intervention models, RAP provides the simplest research-validated method to turn problems into opportunities for learning and growth. Piloted in South Africa to transform services to young people at risk, RAP has been used worldwide. Co-authors of RAP Larry Brendtro and Lesley du Toit have fully updated this 2-day training to provide essential skills for all who deal with challenging children and youth in any setting. This universal-design course translates research on resilience, trauma, culture, and neuroscience into terms readily understandable by lay person and professional alike. Training is enriched with video clips and experiential learning activities. RAP is relevant to parents, foster parents, educators, youth workers, and clinicians, and can be taught to youth who help support their peers and family. Youth learn to show care and concern for others using strategies to solve problems and take pathways to responsibility.

Positive Peer Culture (PPC) — Building Strengths in Youth

PPC is a peer-helping model designed to improve social competence and cultivate strengths in youth. Care and concern for others is the defining element of PPC. —California Evidence-Based Clearing House

Positive Peer Culture provides advanced training in evidence-based strategies for creating positive climates in schools, juvenile justice, residential treatment, group homes, and community settings. Youth disconnected from adults often gravitate to negative peer cultures and engage in high-risk behavior. Punishment only fuels conflict with authority and builds a culture of bullying. Negative peer influence can be reversed by enlisting youth in prosocial helping roles and building respectful bonds with adults. Positive Peer Culture has been refined over decades of research on building strengths in troubled youth, including the latest edition of *Positive Peer Culture* co-authored by Larry Brendtro of Augustana University and Beate Kreisle who is a senior training consultant for the Circle of Courage and PPC in Germany. This peer-helping model is now listed as a research-based practice by the California Evidence-based Clearing House. Outcome goals for this course are to develop effective staff teams, engage youth as peer helpers, and ensure program fidelity. Assessment instruments are provided for both staff and youth to identify *Circle of Courage Strengths and Supports* in young persons and to evaluate progress in creating *Cultures of Respect* where inspired staff teams enable young persons to grow and thrive.

Certification Training Options and Costs

- Annual Reclaiming Youth Seminars Three-Day RAP/PPC Preconference

Held at Augustana University, Sioux Falls, SD, July 17-19, 2023, RAP and PPC are combined in this intensive three-day certification training. Registration is \$500 per participant (includes tuition, materials, and lunches). This option is usually the most cost-effective for individuals or teams of staff from small agencies. Programs can also secure ongoing support with implementation through virtual consultation by Zoom.

- Onsite Two-day RAP and Two-day PPC Courses

Each of these certification courses can enroll up to 25 individuals. Cost is \$4,500 per course plus \$50 materials charge. The host agency is also responsible for providing the venue and reimbursing travel and lodging expenses for the certified trainer. This option is the most cost-effective for larger staff teams. Implementation support is available through virtual consultation by Zoom.

For More Information

Call 605-906-4694 or email info@reclaimingyouthatrisk.org

