

Paul did a remarkable job relating to our staff \dynamic and delivered with such zest \thought-provoking, humorous
It is amazing what an impact Paul can have in a young person's life \His energy and enthusiasm are contagious \enthusiasm.

PAUL VITALE
PROFESSIONAL SPEAKER



Motivational Madness E-Newsletter

Potential Waiting to be Unleashed!

2008 is off to a great start for students and educators in Northeast Arkansas. During a recent visit to Jonesboro, Paul reminded every one of the 400 eighth- and ninth-grade Annie Camp Whirlwinds assembled to hear him speak that they have potential, and he encouraged them to find and use it.



Annie Camp Junior High School was the first of 13 stops on a speaking tour during the month of January to kick off CRESC's involvement with ***A Hero Within - Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders***, a program Paul created to empower students to release their inner heroism.

Presented in partnership with Crowley's Ridge Educational Service Cooperative (CRESC) and funded through Perkins IV, the student assembly is one of several components of ***A Hero Within***. In existence since early 2004, the proven program has been implemented in school districts from Arkansas to Washington, DC. Students at Annie Camp Junior High School, Tuckerman High School, Gosnell High School, Brookland High School and Turrell High School were the first to be challenged by Paul's message in 2008.

"We're all heroes in some form or fashion," Paul said to the Whirlwinds. "I am speaking to you as adults, young leaders. You have the capacity and ability to lead day in and day out."

While urging students to recognize and unleash their potential, Paul encouraged them to think about their lives in the New Year. "Go out and lead by example, and do it in a positive way. To be cool is to be different, and to be different is to lead by example," he said. "Today at Annie Camp Junior High School, you have the potential to better yourself for the future. The world is truly the limit."



During the early afternoon assembly, Paul asked two students to join him on the gym floor. Having seen their names on a bulletin board in the hallway, he recognized them for their efforts in leading other Annie Camp students in the *Reading Enhances Academic Development* program. "This is what being a leader is all about," Paul said. "Surround yourself by the right people and make good choices."

A central idea in his ***A Hero Within*** program, Paul also encouraged the students to have integrity. "Always think about the consequences," he said. "If you screw up, apologize and take responsibility. You learn lessons. If you are going to lie, the odds are you'll get caught. If you make a mistake, it's how you handle it that counts."

Vital Information

Just the Facts

Among graduating college students, 70.1% have borrowed money, with average cumulative debt of \$42,406. Nearly 90% of law school graduates & 95% of medical school graduates have debt averaging about \$80,000 & \$125,000 respectively.

After hearing for years that computer and technology skills were the highest priority for students heading off to college, a new survey of human resource executives says writing skills are what entry-level workers most lack.

-45% say written communication is the largest area of deficiency

-27% say critical thinking skills need the most preparation

-5% say entry-level workers are lacking in computer/technology skills

*Sources available upon request

Did You Know?

The Hoover Dam took four years to build. Legend has it that during construction, workers ran the risk of getting hit by falling rocks, so they invented one of the earliest versions of the hard hat, coating their cloth hats with coal tar to make them hard!

In addition to speaking to the student body as a whole, educators in each of the schools chose 50 - 75 students who are current or potential leaders, as well as class, organization and club officers to sit for an additional interactive session with Paul. Character development, leadership and presentation skills were shared with the students in ways that enabled them to relate and apply the concepts during their everyday lives.

Paul travels worldwide speaking to groups about the importance of a positive attitude, a strong work ethic and other vital concepts. Through his travels and experiences with people from the classroom, to the corporate boardroom, to homeless shelters; Paul has encountered many seeds of heroism. ***A Hero Within - Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders*** challenges students to find the hero within themselves while recognizing the building blocks they need to succeed.

"We hope our students will recognize the many choices they have in life and that they have the power to influence themselves and others in a positive way," said Kathi Turner, coordinator for Career and Technical Education for Crowley's Ridge Co-op. "We also hope they recognize the 'hero' that exists within each and every one of them."

The tour continues during the month of February, as Paul partners with Wilbur D. Mills Education Service Cooperative. Paul thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of working with the students and educators in Northeast Arkansas, and is looking forward to the upcoming assemblies in White and Lonoke counties.

Voice of a Student

Hundreds of students throughout Arkansas have been gracious enough to answer a variety of questions posed by Paul as he visits each of their schools. An important component of ***A Hero Within - Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders***, the survey will provide valuable feedback culled from the students' responses to educators as well as to Paul.



Questions include "What can educators do to continue motivating you?" "How can you encourage your parents to become more involved in your education?" and "Who is your greatest influence?" In addition, students are challenged to answer questions ranging from "Are you ever bullied by others at school?" to "How many text messages do you send in a day?" The answers will be compiled and shared with all participating schools.

Look for a sampling in next month's newsletter. The results may surprise you!

For more information on ***A Hero Within - Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders***, contact our office at 501-868-8195 or visit ***paulvitale.com!***

www.paulvitale.com
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Vital Information

100 Years Ago...

- 8% of U.S. homes had a telephone
- A three-minute call from Denver to NYC cost \$11
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph
- The average U.S. worker made \$300 per year
- 2 out of 10 U.S. adults couldn't read or write
- Only 6% of all Americans graduated from high school
- Crossword puzzles, canned beer and iced tea hadn't been invented yet

Just a Thought

We cannot tell what may happen to us in the strange medley of life. But we can decide what happens in us.

-Joseph F. Newton

Courage is the power to let go of the familiar.

-Raymond Linguist

Leave your mark through the dreams you chase!

-Paul Vitale