

## WORKING WITH PARENTS

Parents are interested in the health, safety, education, and welfare of their children. When you work with parents you will want to target your message to relate to these issues.

Consider the following:

1. Establish and cultivate positive relationships with parents and community members. They are more apt to listen to you if they know you personally and know that you care about their children's education and welfare.
2. Get to know the school's Parent Center Representative and leaders of PTA, Booster Clubs, etc. These parents are often leaders on campus and they can reach other parents as well.
3. Ask parents what their questions and concerns are about military recruitment on campus, military recruiters, the war, etc. Note these down carefully so that you have an idea what they want to know more about.
4. Try to answer their questions or bring people that are knowledgeable to answer their questions. Provide relevant clear information in the language that parents understand.
5. Where possible use visual media, PowerPoint, graphics, photos to communicate your message to parents. Also, if you are doing a workshop or presentation try to use activities that are engaging like role plays, cooperative learning groups, small discussion groups. We have successfully used Addicted to War with parents and this publication is now available in Spanish.

The following are some of the key themes that we have used to talk about the issue of campus militarism:

- Provide info on parent rights to opt-out of having their children's info released under NCLB Section 9528. Explain carefully how to fill out the forms and the due dates. The LAUSD form is very difficult to understand and fill out.
- Provide information about the targeting of low-income students of color for military service. Explain carefully what the military recruiters will promise their child and how their child can get this in other ways. The main one parents want to know about is money for college. Let them know that they can hang up on a military recruiter.
- Provide info on how their children may be placed in middle school Cadets or high school JROTC without parent consent. Let them know that they have the right to take their child out of Cadets or JROTC.
- Let them know where JROTC programs are located, in mostly low-income African American and Latino communities. Explain that 43% of students that complete JROTC eventually enlist in the military.
- Provide info on academic tracking and what their children need to go to college (A-H requirements). Explain how JROTC doesn't meet college entrance requirements and instead takes up study time needed for college preparation.
- Explain carefully that military service can lead to loss of liberty; frightening and debilitating mental trauma; dismemberment and/or death. Explain how women are often sexually assaulted in the military and pressured not to report it. Parents need to understand what their children are getting into.

Submitted by: Rosa Furumoto, [rosa.furumoto@csun.edu](mailto:rosa.furumoto@csun.edu)