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For Immediate Release

Contact:

Lynne Zoulek

KC STAAR Project Director

907 E. Pleasant Valley

Sigourney, IA 52591

Lynne.zoulek@sigourneyschools.com

641-224-2271

Keokuk County Teachers Learn Decision Quality in California

Nine school staff members from four neighboring Keokuk County school districts participated in a week-long training to better equip themselves with the tools to teach students to make quality decisions in their lives. The Decision Education Foundation (DEF) uses a model to help students assess their decisions strategically and thoughtfully through their academic, extracurricular and social lives. The training was offered through Stanford University's School of Professional Development in Palo Alto, California.

"This model can be applied from seemingly minor decisions such as, 'what car will I buy?' to the tougher stuff like, 'what do I want to do after high school?' says Lynne Zoulek, Project Director for the KC STAAR Grant (Keokuk County Schools' Tactics for Alcohol Abuse Reduction). "My hope is that kids will decide to stay away from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs by having them think through this process before they are stuck making an 'in the moment' decision."

Keokuk County participants included Kelly Mousel and Jeni Harter from the Sigourney Community School District, Sonja Anderson and Sarah O'Rourke from the Tri-County Community School District, Mary Miller and Lynnette Hultman from the Keota Community School District, Jim Higdon and Tim Hadley from the Pekin Community School District, and Lynne Zoulek, Project Director for the KC STAAR Grant.

The Decision Education Foundation is a non-profit organization whose goal is to promote, enable and support the development of good decision skills in young people. They develop classroom-ready materials to schools and organizations interested in making decision education a part of their curriculum.

The teachers returning from this training will be implementing this model into their existing classroom curriculum this fall, as well as creating new curriculum to share with the DEF network.

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Pictured:

Top Row L to R: Sonja Anderson, Jeni Harter, Kelly Mousel, Jim Higdon, and Lynne Zoulek

Bottom Row L to R: Sarah O'Rourke, Lynnette Hultman, Tim Hadley, and Mary Miller