Places for Struggling Teens™

"It is more important to get it right, than to get it first."

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THE TEN ELEMENTS OF A QUALITY SCHOOL/PROGRAM

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Everybody seems to have their own ideas of what elements are the most important in the making of a quality school or program. This has been a topic of discussion among professionals working in the network of emotional growth/therapeutic schools and programs for years, and the opinions expressed vary widely.

Last month at the NATSAP conference, I was listening to Larry Dean Olsen, co-Founder of Anasazi Wilderness, give a talk on the ten most important elements of a wilderness program. It hit me that what he was presenting has wider implications than only for wilderness programs.

With appreciation to Larry Dean Olsen, here are the ten elements for a quality school/program to be successful. I slightly adapted them from his talk to broaden the spectrum from wilderness to the entire network.

1. The main focus of the school or program needs to be the good of the students. Money and other things are important but are only secondary to the needs of the students.
2. Every student deserves respect for their natural goodness. Even though the student might be secretive, manipulative or dishonest, he

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