

Kingman Daily Miner

AYP aims to WakeUP! youth

Aaron Royster

Miner Staff Reporter

Thursday, December 04, 2008

KINGMAN - Sometimes just seeing the end of the road can lead to a change of paths.

Arizona Youth Partnership is focusing on positive growth in children and looking for youth to participate in their WakeUP! program beginning on Friday.

The program reveals real-life consequences of using alcohol and drugs for individuals age 12-20, said Tammany K. McDaniel, Colorado River Regional Director.

The program accepts voluntary referrals from parents who feel their children are heading down the wrong path, McDaniel said.

"As we all go through the times of puberty and we go through changes, parents key (on) focal points for noticing when youth are heading down the wrong path or hanging out with the wrong crowds," McDaniel said.

The first session will be from 4-8 p.m. on Friday at the Colorado River Regional Office, 4255 Stockton Hill Road, Suite 3. Participants and parents will attend an introduction and slide show from the Pima County Medical Office.

The second session will be two hours long the following week at the Valley View Medical Center in Ft. Mohave. At the medical center, participants will shadow the emergency room staff, while being kept out of harm's way.

As with all sessions, participants will need to provide their own transportation to the medical center.

The final session will be from 4-8 p.m. on Dec. 19, when the participants write a 500-word essay detailing what the experience has meant to them.

AYP will conduct a follow-up with each participant six and 12 months after they complete the program.

The **AYP** program in Tucson, Springerville and Eager communities is based on a similar program in San Diego and southern California cities.

"I've seen it in action," McDaniel said. "I've seen that it's impactful (sic)."

The Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety is funding the program for 90 youth in the Kingman area. Each class is limited at 10 participants.

AYP plans to have nine total sessions before the funding for the program ends on May 31.

For more information about the program or to sign up to participate, call **AYP** at (928) 692-5889.