

Oh, We've Learned!

As educators, we continually attend professional development conferences. When is the last time you attended a conference whose entire mission was for *you* to focus on *you*? Eighteen current and retired DKG educators convened at Eagle Ridge Conference Center in Raymond, MS, June 14-17 to get to know each other, learn from experts, and reflect on the many dimensions of leadership. Emphasis throughout was on our personal and professional growth.

The DKG Leadership Management Seminar began with each participant using personal treasures brought from home to explain things that are important to her. Pictures of family, shells from beach trips, a wee bear from a honeymoon twenty years after the fact are among the items shared.

Dr. Jimmy Richardson continued the emphasis on the personal as we took the Myers-Briggs questionnaire designed to understand how one perceives and interacts with the world.

Another highlight was Hinds Community College's Gay Saxon's humorous and motivating session on goal setting. Karen Fayard's qualities of a leader helped us to remember to forget about ourselves, focus on our group's needs and goals. With Nancy Jay, we took a look at what our appearance and our aura say about the image that we may unwittingly offer to others. Playing with paper dolls got us "hands on" in style! Etiquette in the workplace with Jean Ricks rounded out the image session.

Betty Barrett's legal session addressed issues unique to women, including leases, wills, and health care decisions. Miller Faulk from the Attorney General's Office prepared us to understand details of fraud and identity theft.

Unique to LMS was the special emphasis on women's health issues with Mickie Griffith-Autry. Sara Smith's "shape up or ship out" and learning to line dance with Sharon Langley and Janice Puckett got us on our feet! Wearing DKG hats and pedometers, we "walked the talk."

The 2015 DKG Leadership Management Seminar leaders offered new insights and resources. Participants developed lasting friendships and plans for balancing the professional and personal dimensions of life!