

Professional Mediation Training leads to certification

Members of Broward College's family recently completed a three-day Professional Mediation Training to become certified as Florida Supreme Court County Court Mediators. The training was held at Nova Southeastern University through the Institute of Conflict Resolution & Communication (ICRC). Alexia Georgakopoulos, Ph. D., ICRC's director of training, served as the primary trainer. The program is designed to educate participants about a variety of mediation models. The recipients of the certification plan to use their newly acquired skills to assist students, faculty, staff, and administrators in resolving conflicts in a positive, productive manner.

In January, 1996, the college collaborated with Nova Southeastern University, under the leadership of Donald Cleveland and Dr. William Warters, NSU Dean of Systemic Studies, to train more than 20 members of Broward College's faculty and staff in conflict resolution and mediation. Maria Hincapie was also one of the recipients of the certificates for that training. As a result of the collaboration, a program was developed and directed by Cleveland entitled Program for Peaceful Problem Solving (PPPS). It provided members of the college and the local community with resources and direct assistance to resolve interpersonal and intergroup conflicts creatively and nonviolently.



Donald Cleveland, left, Maria Hincapie, Maria Bernal-Dobek, and Joeseeph Dobek.