An international model for Child-Centered mediation

The Werner Institute at Creighton University and the Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR) recently welcomed Dr. Lorri Yasenik from Canada and Jon Graham from Australia to the United States to present their world renowned Child-Centered Continuum Model (CCCM). The CCCM presents an approach to family dispute resolution processes that is intentional in bringing the voice of children into the conversation. This 2-day certificate program took place June 6 & 7, 2016 in Omaha, NE. A total of nineteen practitioners that work as mediators, attorneys, child-custody investigators, and social workers participated in the seminar.

The experiential seminar focused on developing the skills to assess the parents’ readiness for incorporating the children’s voice and the ability to draw out the concerns of the children involved. Success in this endeavor required learning how to engage in conversations beyond the use of language to draw out authentic and meaningful messages. This effort requires an open exploration of the individual you are engaging. Jon and Lorri provided strategies and exercises adaptable to the individual’s practice to allow this engagement to take place effectively. A secondary learning outcome attained through this seminar provided the ability to confidently convey the important messages gathered from the children to the parents in a constructive and beneficial manner. For more information on the model Lorri and Jon developed, please take a look at their recently published article in the April 2016 issue of Family Court Review, *The continuum of including children in ADR processes: A child-centered continuum model.*

This is the third time these internationally recognized practitioners provided their seminar in the United States. Lorri’s work as a mediator, social worker, and therapist in Calgary, Canada informed her contributions to this model and accompanying training program. Jon integrates his training as an attorney and practice as a registered family dispute resolution practitioner in Sydney, Australia to inform his contribution to the collaborative process that resulted in the CCCM model. Although the geographic divide limits opportunities to experience this training in the United States, Lorri and Jon continue to develop and refine their program and will launch a new seminar including an advanced skills workshop to increase capacity to work with children and young people in family law. This program launches in Sydney, Australia on September 7th, 2016. An offering in Calgary, Canada will follow in January, 2017. For more information on these programs, you may visit their website: [www.yasenik-graham.com](http://www.yasenik-graham.com). It is our hope they choose to bring the program back to the United States soon.
Figure 1. The group of participants upon completion of the CCCM Seminar with Jon and Lorri in the front.