

# Pride Academy engages with students



Leading a session on sportsmanship and student leadership at the Pride Academy event were Alan Beste and David Anderson from the Iowa High School Athletic Association.

The Iowa Hall of Pride is excited about a new initiative geared towards middle school and high school students.

As we reflected on successes with elementary students and the hundreds of field trips we host each year, we decided it was time to renew our focus on the middle school and high school students. We are calling that renewed focus, The Pride Academy, and we're excited to share it with Iowa students.

The Pride Academy is an educational initiative that will help students develop goal setting, decision making, and/or human relations skills to become successful in their next step in life. Pride Academy presentations may be carried out at the Iowa Hall of Pride or in Iowa schools.

In the fall of 2010 – the Pride Academy hosted the North Central Iowa Conference (NCC-10 schools from northern Iowa) student council members at the Hall of Pride for a day of leadership training and we also went out into schools in Solon, Clarksville, West Central Valley, and AGWSR. Several other programs are planned in other Iowa schools.

One of the workshop presenters at the NCC gathering focused on the perils of texting and driving and the current Iowa

laws regarding teen drivers. As noted at the conference, among the leading causes of death for teens is motor vehicle accidents, and distracted driving by way of texting and cell phone use are at the root of the problem.

"This day provided a great opportunity for students to meet new friends from throughout the conference, tour the Hall of Pride ... and develop strategies to become better leaders," said Scott Jeske, Principal at Eagle Grove High School. "It was a great day for all and we look forward to continue this in the future!"

Popular program topics for the Pride Academy have been -- *The Importance*

*of Leadership, Becoming a Stronger Leader and Dealing with Bullying.* All programs are tailored to meet individual needs of each school.

Leading the Pride Academy initiative are Education Coordinator Shelly Johnson and Marketing Director Chad Elsberry.

"We want to help educate Iowa students by helping them grow their ability and discipline to evaluate facts and potential consequences when setting goals, making good decisions, and dealing with others," said the presenters.

Part of the Hall of Pride's mission is to "Educate the Future."



Middle school students at Solon during a recent Pride Academy event.