

Votre Vray Events for Teen and College Students

Mel Edwards grew up in a paper-mill town in upstate New York and was the first person in her family's history to attend college and graduate. In the long run, Mel earned three different degrees, and was inducted into **Kappa Delta Pi** honor fraternity, **National Residence Hall Honorary** for the top 1% of all Residence Hall community participants, and won awards for **Student Leadership** and **Programming for Students**.

Mel continues to expand her knowledge and expertise. In addition to being a certified educator with experience teaching every grade through adulthood, Mel holds certificates as a Usui and Karuna **Reiki master teacher (R.M.T.)**, **Ashtanga yoga Primary Series teacher**, and is a **candidate for National Board Certification**.

Mel is an award-winning poet who has earned grants from **National Storytelling Network** for her work as a storyteller and scholar. In 2008, Mel recorded two compact discs of original songs, poetry and stories. Then, she met 75 different creative women and developed their personal tales into a one-woman show entitled "**Shout: Kiss My Art!**" which earned her a grant from the **Metropolitan Arts Council** to produce.

Mel Edwards is available for:

- Orientation, Welcome Week, and ...
- Back-to-School Programs
- Lectures and Assemblies (Any Time Of Year)
- Student Leadership and Government Gatherings
- Student Conferences, including Key Club
- Speech/Drama/Debate Events
- Teen Institute Conferences
- Residence Life/Housing Events, including NRHH inductions
- Career Day/Job Fair
- Commencements/Graduations
- Alcohol/Drug Awareness programs
- Women's Empowerment and Take-Back-the-Night Events
- Summer programs (including camps)
- Any other function where an "outside" speaker for students is feasible

Differentiation for Audience Demographics

Although the programs are listed for both teen and college students, as a veteran educator and public speaker, Mel Edwards takes time to differentiate the tone, content and mode of delivery to meet the unique needs of your audience demographics.

Do you desire a program other than those listed below?

Custom presentation topics are welcome.

Contact Mel Edwards via Votre Vray to discuss your unique needs.

Popular Programs for Students Include:

A Day to Find Your Truth ™

This two-hour workshop for students who are at-risk and need to discover what their unique talents and skills are before they slide down the rabbit hole. Find, claim and live your truth to increase happiness, reduce depression and at-risk behaviors that can cost your career, dreams and life. Mel shares inspirational stories and humor to inspire students to look at the gifts they already have. Workbook included for all participants.

Storytelling for Reluctant Speakers ™

60 minutes, 90 minutes

If you can learn a basic folk tale, Mel can help you can learn to overcome your fear of speaking in front of others! As a speech, drama and debate coach, Mel brought her students from fearful novices to state championship in one season. By the end of the session, students will be begging to try the limelight.

“Shout: Kiss My Art!” for Students ™

60 minutes, 90 minutes

When Mel was in high school she was known for her huge earrings and odd sense of style. In fact, she enjoyed the positive way she got the attention and respect of others without breaking the rules or bowing to peer pressure. This program is every student who has ever felt out of sync with the rest of the world. You can claim your unique spirit and tell others that you do not need to be one of the crowd to be healthy, happy and successful. Together, we'll all shout, “Kiss My Art!”

From School Room to Boardroom ™

60 minutes, 90 minutes

Ever wonder why the rules you have in school seem so, well, strict and difficult to understand? They exist because there are certain “soft” skills and behaviors that top employers expect all of their associates to have, without ever being told. The people that master these skills have careers that skyrocket, while the uninitiated flounder and wonder why they're overlooked again and again for opportunities. Mel uses humor, role playing and real world examples from entrepreneurs, corporate America and students to help you learn how to be the go-to person when the boss is ready to fill a seat in the boardroom.