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To whom it may concern,

11/13/13

It is my pleasure to recommend Adventure In Adventure Out as an organization that can successfully meet your leadership development needs. At Elms College, we were looking for a retreat opportunity for our new leadership program that went above and beyond typical team builders, ropes course activities, and trust exercises. Our facilitator, Ben Delozier, proposed a full day experience that focused on self-reflection, storytelling, understanding others, strength based motivation, and leading with the heart. We could not have asked for a better experience.

I was connected with Adventure In Adventure Out through a colleague. She suggested I get to know the organization by meeting with a representative to see if their workshops could fit the needs of our RA training. After meeting, it became clear that their workshops would greatly enhance our new leadership program that we kicked off this fall. The planning process was seamless. Ben was able to talk over the phone, was very accessible through email, and came to discuss the workshop with our planning committee. That face to face interaction prior to the retreat was really helpful. After meeting in person, it was clear that Adventure In Adventure Out's workshop meshed well with Elms College's core values: faith, community, justice, and excellence.

At first, we were worried that the workshop would be lower in energy and activity. However, Ben provided activities that prompted deep reflection and sharing and that required moving and high energy. Overall, it was a full balanced day. The retreat went really well despite a rainy day. Elms College provided the venue and food and Ben came ready and prepared with supplies. Students and staff, about 15 total, first spent the morning drawing our background and sharing with the group. One activity that stands out in my mind is a matching game that uses two decks of cards. The activity challenged the group to think of how they make assumptions about others based on limited knowledge and understanding of group members. Each activity had a reflection portion at the end and the transition to each activity felt natural and not rushed.

Overall, Adventure In Adventure Out is worth the investment. For a reasonable price, our group received a high quality retreat day that students loved. Feedback was very positive from men and women who participated. The group bonded in a positive way and individuals were challenged to internalize who they are and where they come from and how to work with and motivate others who are on their own life journey. If you are looking for a more meaningful and deeper retreat or workshop experience, seriously consider Adventure In Adventure Out.

Sincerely,

Jon Todd
Director of Residence Life
Elms College