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## National Teen Leadership Program to hold weekend retreat in Beverly

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**By Stewart Bishop, Town Correspondent**

The National Teen Leadership Program will hold its first East Coast program from July 15-17 at Endicott College.

The nonprofit's weekend program, which consists of a combination of workshops, interactive small group activities and talks by motivational speakers, is open to all teenagers in the 8th to 12th grades, according to Lisa Kim, a program spokeswoman.

The program aims to help build communication, collaboration, critical thinking skills and to provide activities designed to foster creativity, problem solving, and self-confidence in participants, according to a statement from the program.

"One of the goals is to take teens out of their comfort zone and give them insight into themselves and others in order to become better leaders," Kim said.

She said the program is open to all teens, regardless of academic achievement level, from those at the top of their class, to teenagers who might be identified as "at risk."

The National Teen Leadership Program has been holding conferences in states like California, Arizona, Washington and Texas on college campuses for 20 years, Kim said.

Endicott College was selected as the site of its first East Coast retreat because of the presence of the Essex County Community Foundation's Youth at Risk conference, Kim said.

"I was looking for a location and community that would have a good synergy with the work we do with teens and that could potentially be an ongoing home for our program," Kim said. "That was confirmed at this year's 11th annual conference where 650 youth workers attended and showed the dedication of individuals who work with youth in Essex county. Already a number of groups from organizations in Essex county such as Family Continuity, GenYLife Design, and Health & Education Services are planning to attend."

For registration information visit <http://www.ntlp.org/> or call 800-550-1950.

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