

**Counselor helps  
students steer  
proper course  
for education**

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**Wellington**

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When Robin Abedon moved to Florida almost 10 years ago, she knew a life of leisure was not for her.

"I need to be immersed and involved. That's what helps me to know that I'm alive and well," says Abedon.

And what better way to do that than to continue mentoring and working with kids as she had been doing in Rhode Island.

Abedon, who was born in Cambridge, Mass., earned a bachelor's in English from Tufts University, then a master's in teaching English from Harvard.

She married sweetheart Richard in her third year at Tufts.



BILL INGRAM/Staff Photographer

Robin Abedon (right) meets with Wellington High School senior Cari Schnittman, 17, to discuss some of her college choices. Abedon is a private counselor, advising students and their families about education goals.

By CAROL ROSE  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Abedon taught for a while in Massachusetts before the couple moved to Rhode Island, where she continued teaching high school. It was there that she got her first administrative position, being put in charge of ninth-grade curriculum.

"I was challenged, because I was young and the more experienced teachers weren't so sure I should be telling them what to do," says Abedon.

She eventually left teaching and worked part-time with the Title I program, interviewing parents of eligible children and advising them on how best to help their kids. She then focused on raising her children--Rick, Todd and Tracy.

Once her children "were well-established," she took a job as a part-time admissions officer at Brown University.

She then moved to Rhode Island College to work with a program that taught teachers how to incorporate economics into their everyday lessons, ultimately becoming director of the program.

She went back to school, because she felt the need to get the credentials suited to her position. She earned a master's in public administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government

She describes that period as "perhaps one of the most exciting years of my life."

At this point, Abedon began to mentor young students, particularly inner city students, to help them foster goals for their education. She worked closely with a private school, comprised mostly of at-risk kids with academic potential.

She and her husband also mentored kids through the Urban League of Rhode Island.

When her husband decided he could not tolerate another New England winter, they headed south and Abedon added a new dimension to her mentoring.

"I knew the only way I could survive was to become reinvolved in education, in particular, helping students to make educational choices."

The Wellington resident now works as a private counselor, advising students and their families about education goals. Though the bulk of her clients are in the high school-to-college transition, some need advice about the best courses to take in high school, while others need help making decisions about graduate studies.

"As a private counselor, I try to get to know my students. To understand what their motivation is, what their expectations are, what their parents' expectations are.."

A certified educational planner, Abedon tries to help people understand how competitive and how disappointing the college application process can be. Through Taking the Next Step with Robin Abedon (Web site: [www.takingthenextstep](http://www.takingthenextstep)), she offers guidance on selection and application. She doesn't offer tutoring or test preparation.

Though most clients pay a fee, Abedon also does some pro bono work.

As an executive board member of the Children's Home Society, she continues to work with at-risk kids. She's also trying to develop a mentoring program for some of the teens helped by the society.

Of her college counseling role, Abedon says, she tries to make sure that both students and their families "feel good about what happened." She says, "You always try to know your student well enough to know that you're making a good match."

*Abedon and Kevin Weaver, a tutor and exam-prep counselor, will present a free seminar on college planning at the Wellington library today at 6:30 p.m.*