



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Student Leadership Conference Enhances Career Skills among Local Area Youth

WAUKESHA - Students from the Lead to Succeed Milwaukee Program and the UW-Waukesha Lead to Succeed Program had the opportunity to join together on December 12, 2009 and participate in a leadership conference held at UW-Waukesha.

The leadership conference brought together students from the School for Urban Planning and Architecture, Brown Deer High School, Waukesha County 4H, Waukesha North High School, and the Waukesha Academy of Health Professions. With over 60 students present, the conference provided networking experiences, as well as workshops that focused on building the career skills that will be crucial for our region's future economic success.

The conference began with an announcement from Lori Radean, community relations specialist with the Milwaukee Bucks, about a special incentive program to recognize students who are dedicated to the program. Students who demonstrate exemplary attendance, follow through on their commitments, and learn to work as an effective team member will have the opportunity to attend a Bucks game in March and participate in a special courtside chat with representatives from the Bucks organization before the game.

Following the opening session, breakout workshops were offered based on the skills that area businesses have expressed are needed, yet often lacking, in the current workforce. Topics included: Getting the JOB, Starting NOW, Starting Your Own Business, Acing the Interview, Improving Your High School Experience, The Key to Communication, Financing your College Education and many more. Additional workshops were offered to parents in attendance as well. Workshop presenters included:

Dustin Nolan: Waukesha County Recycling

Steve Glynn: Spreenkler

Karin Gratz: CommUNITY Connections Consulting

Muhibb Dyer: Flood the Hood with Dreams

Wanda Harkins: Wells Fargo

Carrie Smith-King: Mt. Mary College

Curtis Smith and Jessica Krieter: COMPASS GUIDE (Waukesha)

more

The conference was put on for students in the Lead to Succeed program, a youth leadership development program in which high school and college students work together on high level service learning projects that support critical needs of local non-profit organizations while exposing students to the careers that will be most in demand and the skills that employers most need. The leadership conference provides an alternative avenue to promote career skills, enhances student learning, and helps prepare students to become the future workforce.

The Lead to Succeed program has many new and exciting opportunities for community members to get involved. If you are interested in more information about the program, please contact: Karin Gratz at (414) 456-1733 or kgratz@communityconnectionsconsulting.com

**SUPAR's
Lead to
Succeed
Team**



SUPAR students at the conference included (from top left) Back row: Gabby, Reyanna, Alberto, Karen, Jesus; Second row: Petra from Lead to Succeed, Beth, Rajshaun, (two other students), Tracy; Third row: Mario, Jacques, Maribel, Jalisa, Takeisha, Angela, and Jesunique.