

A YEAR OF CHALLENGE, GROWTH AND IMPACT

Lead for Diversity is a yearlong commitment to personal growth, peer leadership development and school improvement. During the summer, teams of up to five students from high schools throughout the state participate in a week-long peer leadership program designed to prepare them to make decisions based on an appreciation of the diversity, including ethnic, racial, faith and gender identity, within their schools and communities.

In the summer of 2008 student teams from 45 public and independent high schools*, and their advisors made the commitment to create positive change in their schools and neighborhoods, identifying opportunities to apply the awareness they gained. They developed Action Plans that will be implemented throughout the school year, helping to create inclusive school and neighborhood communities.

During the school year, *Lead for Diversity* teams come together for advanced peer leadership training, to share their Action Plans and strategies. During the 2008-2009 academic year, it is estimated that student led Action Plans, intended to affect their school populations, will impact close to 25,000 students throughout New Jersey.

2008 Lead for Diversity Participant Schools and Organizations:

<i>Absegami High School</i>	<i>Middletown High School South</i>
<i>Asbury Park High School</i>	<i>Monroe Township High School</i>
<i>Bayonne High School</i>	<i>Moorestown Friends School</i>
<i>Bergen County Academies</i>	<i>Northern Burlington Regional High School</i>
<i>Bergen Technical High School</i>	<i>Ocean Township High School</i>
<i>Bishop George Ahr High School</i>	<i>Piscataway High School</i>
<i>Colts Neck High School</i>	<i>Princeton Day School</i>
<i>Columbia High School</i>	<i>Robbinsville High School</i>
<i>Franklin High School</i>	<i>Roselle Park High School</i>
<i>Freehold High School</i>	<i>Rutgers Preparatory School</i>
<i>Freehold Township High School</i>	<i>Saint Vincent Academy</i>
<i>Gill St. Bernard's School</i>	<i>South Brunswick High School</i>
<i>Haddonfield Memorial High School</i>	<i>Spotswood High School</i>
<i>Harrison High School</i>	<i>St. Benedict's Preparatory School</i>
<i>Henry Snyder High School</i>	<i>Teen Pride, Inc*. (Morristown High School students)</i>
<i>Holy Family Academy</i>	<i>University Academy Charter High School</i>
<i>Howell High School</i>	<i>Warren Hills Regional High School</i>
<i>Kearny High School</i>	<i>William L. Dickinson High School</i>
<i>Kent Place School</i>	<i>Woodbury Jr. / Sr. High School</i>
<i>Lakewood High School</i>	
<i>Liberty High School</i>	
<i>Manalapan High School</i>	
<i>Marist High School</i>	
<i>Marlboro High School</i>	
<i>Memorial High School (West New York)</i>	
<i>Middletown High School North</i>	

2008: BY THE NUMBERS

Delegates completed their assessment of the program at the conclusion of their Lead for Diversity session.

Delegate Survey

As a Result of Attending Lead for Diversity 2008:	Strongly Agree/Agree
<i>I am more open to having friends of different races, genders, sexual orientations, religions, and ethnicities</i>	100%
<i>I have an increased understanding and appreciation for people of different races ,genders ,sexual orientations, religions, & ethnicities</i>	100%
<i>I have an increased understanding of the effects of stereotypes and assumptions</i>	100%
<i>I have a better understanding of the pain some people feel because of discrimination</i>	100%
<i>I am more aware of my own stereotypes and prejudices</i>	100%
<i>I have learned skills that help me to work for causes and issues in which I believe</i>	98.9%
<i>I am more aware of how I deal with conflicts and have good strategies for working through conflict with others</i>	97.8%
<i>I will be able to contribute to people getting along better at my school</i>	98.9%
<i>I feel comfortable that I can use the skills and knowledge I have learned when I return to my school</i>	98.3%
<i>I would recommend Lead for Diversity to a friend</i>	100%

Who came in 2008?

45 High Schools:	184 Students Total:	Faith
17 Urban Schools	59%----- Females	Demographics:
23 Suburban Schools	41%----- Males	3% Agnostic
5 Rural Schools		2% Atheist
	Racial Demographics:	68% Christian
19 Northern NJ	23% African	5% Hindu
20 Central NJ	American/Black	7% Jewish
6 Southern NJ	9% Asian American	0.7% Muslim
	16% Latino/Hispanic	2% Multiple
10 Independent Schools	2% Middle Eastern	1% Sikh
35 Public Schools	10% Multi/Bi-Racial	3% Other
	36% White/Caucasian	2% Unsure
	2% Other	5% None
	1% No Response	20% No Response

IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

"Lead for Diversity educates. People can get as emotionally connected as they want, either a lot or a little and still benefit educationally."

~Stephen Neely

"I have grown so much and am so inspired by the growth of my peers."

~Nicole Wisler

"I'm just sincerely and extremely grateful [for] this experience."

~Georges Richa

"I can't begin to thank Lead for Diversity for what I've learned. I'm truly inspired."

~Chelsea Sheehy

"Absolutely incredible... I never expected that this program was going to be so effective."

~Vanessa Rendon-Vasquez

"I don't have enough words to describe this experience. I learned so much about myself and in these 5 days people have impacted my life in a way that no one in my whole entire life has."

~Natalia Bermudez



**American Conference
on Diversity**

Valuing Diversity, Educating Leaders, Promoting Respect

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LEAD FOR DIVERSITY EXPERIENCE



DIVERSITY AWARENESS IN ACTION American Conference on Diversity Youth Leadership Institute

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