

In your community

September
2005



YOUTH FUTURES COLLEGE WITHIN REACH PROGRAM

4-H Youth Futures is a program that makes college an achievable goal for youth not typically encouraged to go to college such as minorities and youth that may be the first in their family to attend college. Developed by University of Missouri Extension/4-H and Lincoln University Extension, Youth Futures is an extensive college orientation program that includes a conference on the MU campus and pre and post conference mentoring. The on-site campus experiences coupled with a caring adult (mentor) motivates youth

and helps them navigate the many steps of getting into and staying in college.

Forty-nine students traveled to the University of Missouri Columbia Campus to the 4th Annual Youth Futures Conference. Eleven Latino and African-American students and two adult sponsors from the Cultural Diversity, Career College Preparation 4-H Club in Kansas City attended this year's conference.

Many parents report that the program has a strong impact on youth. They report that their adolescent is more serious about high school, setting goals and improving behavior. Participants reported that they learned what they need to do to go to college (85%), and where to find financial assistance for college (88%). In addition, 94% were in agreement that they now had a better understanding about college.



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QUOTES FROM YOUTH FUTURES

"I left the conference determined to better my future. I am scared to go to college, but I know I have the whole Youth Futures family to lean on if I need their help."
Youth Participant—Laura Rey

"The Youth Futures Conference helped me believe in my own potential to succeed. College is a non existing dream for too many in my barrio (neighborhood), especially for my friends who do not have a social security number to get into college. The workshop lead by el Señor Genaro Ruiz inspired me to look at my own determination. I want to come back next year as a youth leader and help other Latinos believe it is possible to finish high school and go to college."
Youth Participant—Raul Sanchez



"It was a fun way for me to learn more about MU and MWSU, as well as college life. I really enjoyed talking with the Academic Departments and learning more about my possible major and degree program. It was one of the best preparations for college I've attended."
Youth Participant—Ta'Rell Tillman



"I was so blessed to go to the conference. I fell in love with MU the moment I stepped foot on it. Although the practice ACT test was long and hard, I feel I am ready to take it for real in October! La Señora Leticia Zarate-Garcia's keynote address was the highlight of my experience. I have never seen a Latina from my same background speak about struggle, Brown pride, and making it as a Hispanic female in the real world."
Youth Participant—Jacqueline Ayala

4-H AWARDED JCPENNY/NFL CHARITIES GRANT

The University of Missouri Extension 4-H of Jackson County has been awarded a grant that will prepare Adults and Teen Teams to teach middle school youth about becoming prepared to enter into the workforce. This national Workforce Preparedness Program is funded by a grant from JC Penney Afterschool Fund and NFL Charities. Jackson County is sharing a \$30,000 grant with two other counties in Missouri to train high school teenagers and adult team members who will then teach 720 middle school youth job-readiness skills. The programs will be held at LINC Caring Communities Sites where 4-H already participates in after-school programs, many area churches, community centers and Boys & Girls Clubs. The concept of the project is workforce readiness, targeting middle school pupils between the ages of 11 and 14. Each middle school student will receive 20 hours of training. The adult and teen teams will begin the Workforce Preparedness Programs in the fall with the middle school youth and continue through spring.



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