

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Nancy Manglos

616.842.4910

nmanglos@grandhavenchamber.org

2017-2018 Lakeshore Youth Leadership Connection Class Graduates

The 2017-2018 Lakeshore Youth Leadership Connection Class held their graduation ceremony and celebration on Tuesday March 27, 2018. This years class had 19 students from both Muskegon Public Schools and Grand Haven Area Public Schools.

The purpose of the Lakeshore Youth Leadership program is to cultivate leadership qualities in students from the communities of Grand Haven and Muskegon. Each year a total of twenty students from eighth and tenth grades are selected from Grand Haven Area Public Schools and Muksegon Public Schools to participate in the program.

The students gain enhanced personal skills and the capacity to create change as leaders. In addtion, they obtain a better understanding of each community as well as learning to respect the similarities and differences of each area.

At the Celebration, the students shared the impact this leadership program has had on them. Students learned that they have more in common each other, how to break stereotypes and eliminate biases. Several students described how the program encouraged them to not to judge others, but instead show kindess and acceptance as we're all equal as human beings.

Students were inspired to step out of their comfort zone to make new relationships and become leaders among their peers. Students also discussed how participating in community service activities encouraged them towards a desire to give back and that they plan to keep volunteering in their communities.

The 2017-2018 program was sponsored by 100 Men Who Care, Fifth Third Bank, Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #925, Meijer, Muskegon Community College, ReFab, Rycenga Building Center, Paul A. Johnson Foundation, the Mary C. Payne Fund at Community Foundation of Muskegon County and the Tri-Cities Kiwanis Club.

To learn more about Lakeshore Youth Leadership Connections, contact Nancy Manglos at The Chamber of Commerce at 616. 842.0529.

Photo Credit: 2017-2018 Lakeshore Youth Leadership Connections Class

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