

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

"Learning about others and the issues they face taught me not only about myself but why prejudice is wrong."

- Jessica Angerstein

"My overall experience was amazing. Everyone said it would be life-changing. It was. I see the world from a new perspective."

- Darshan Patel

"LFD opened my eyes to a world I wasn't aware of and one that has flaws and faults. But now leaving this camp, I have the skills and knowledge to fix these problems."

- Kathryn Bednarsky

"The most important part of LFD was becoming aware of my own prejudices and assumptions, which I didn't believe existed. Learning how easy it is to become strongly connected to unfamiliar people taught me that as humans we can learn to love each other in ways unimaginable."

- Salma Hbaich

"The action planning workshop was the important part for me. I'm excited to put my group's idea into play."

- Diana Ortiz

"This was an amazing experience. It changed my thoughts about everything. There is a lot I want to do with my knowledge."

- Andrew Doukas

"For me, the most important part of LFD was getting to know more about different cultures and bonding with people of different races."

- Shanice McLeod

"My experience at LFD has been amazing. It has brought me a better understanding about society. It gave me the keys to open new doors. I feel as if I can change the world."

- Duvan Gonzalez

"I love how I actually realized what I say every day or what I think about people. Now, I honestly have a totally different outlook on life and people. If I could stay another week, I would. LFD just makes you think differently."

- Sarah Fox

"I have the power to change the world. I have a duty because of it. What is the world if those who can, don't?"

-Ryan McCluskey

"The most important part of LFD for me was learning new things and being able to confront issues in my community."

- Dhvanika Patel

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**American Conference on Diversity**

VALUING DIVERSITY, EDUCATING LEADERS, PROMOTING RESPECT

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# **LEAD FOR DIVERSITY 2012**

## *Summer Experience*



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# 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 four 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 2012 student teams from 23 charter, public comprehensive, and private 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 2012-2013 academic year, it is estimated that student-led Action Plans, intended to affect their school populations, will impact close to 23,000 students throughout New Jersey.

## Who Came in 2012?

### 23 High Schools:

2 Rural  
13 Suburban  
8 Urban

8 Central NJ  
11 Northern NJ  
4 Southern NJ

1 Charter  
5 Private  
17 Public, non-charter

### Grade Levels:

15% Sophomores  
31% Juniors  
54% Seniors

### 92 Students Total:

75% Female  
25% Male

### Racial Demographics:

13% Asian  
5% Biracial, Multiracial  
20% Black, African American  
16% Latino(a), Hispanic  
1% Middle Eastern  
43% White  
3% Other

### Faith Demographics:

6% Atheist  
57% Christian  
3% Hindu  
10% Jewish  
3% Muslim  
4% Multiple  
10% None  
7% Other

### Sexual Orientation / Identity

4% Bisexual  
4% Fluid  
78% Heterosexual  
5% Lesbian  
4% Multiple  
3% Questioning  
4% Other

# 2012: 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 2012:

*Strongly  
Agree/Agree*

I am more open to having friends of different ethnicities and races.	100%
I am more open to having friends of different genders.	100%
I am more open to having friends with different religions.	98%
I am more open to having friends with different sexual orientations.	99%
I am more comfortable discussing issues involving race or ethnicity with someone of a different race or ethnicity.	95%
I am more comfortable discussing sexual orientation with someone of a different sexual orientation.	94%
I have an increased understanding of, and appreciation for, people of different social and cultural identities.	100%
I have an increased understanding of the harmful effects of prejudice, stereotypes, and assumptions on people because of one or more of their social or cultural identities.	100%
I am more aware of my own stereotypes and prejudices.	100%
I have learned skills that will help me to work for causes and issues in which I believe.	100%
I am more aware of how I deal with conflicts and have developed good strategies for working through conflict with others.	100%
I will be better able to contribute to people getting along at my school.	99%
I am more comfortable confronting racial stereotypes.	99%
I am more comfortable confronting gender stereotypes.	94%
I am more comfortable confronting stereotypes about body type.	99%
I am more comfortable confronting stereotypes based on ability status.	98%
I feel comfortable that I can utilize my skills and knowledge, related to leadership and diversity awareness, when I return to my school.	98%
I have created an Action Plan that I believe will create positive change in my school community.	95%
I would recommend Lead for Diversity to a friend.	100%

### Participating Schools, Lead for Diversity 2012:

Absegami High School	Marlboro High School
Bayonne High School	Memorial High School (West New York)
Bergen County Academies	Moorestown Friends School
Cedar Creek High School	Piscataway High School
Franklin High School	Roselle Park High School
Freehold Township High School	St. Benedict's Preparatory
Gill St. Bernard's School	Saint Vincent Academy
Haddonfield Memorial High School	Secaucus High School
Howell High School	Spotswood High School
Kearny High School	University Academy Charter High School
Kent Place School	William L. Dickinson High School
Lakewood High School	