2018 Lead On! Conference

Women in Safe Homes Prevention and Education Department partnered with the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault’s (ANDVSA) Stand Up Speak Up Alaska campaign to attend the 2018 Lead On! conference with three students selected from Ketchikan. Lead On! is a 3-day conference held in Anchorage during the first weekend of November. Youth from all over the state attend with their adult mentors to learn about topics like leadership, healthy relationships, and healthy sexuality. During the conference the youth and adult mentors attend workshops facilitated by speakers from both Alaska and other states. Youth develop their own community impact project to address issues they feel strongly about. Issues can include substance abuse, violence, school safety, suicide prevention, bullying, and more. Following the conference, the youth are given the opportunity to apply for a $2,000 mini-grant to fund their community impact project from ANDVSA and an additional $1,000 grant funded by Recover Alaska.

Ketchikan’s students were awarded the full scholarship of $3,000 to complete their project. Their project was inspired by workshop facilitator, Lakota Harden, who attended and facilitated groups at the Lead On! conference. The student’s felt passionate that the Ketchikan community lacks a sense of safety and security among the youth population. The goal of their project was to help enhance this sense of security. The students invited Lakota to Ketchikan to facilitate a 2-hour workshop/discussion addressing the topics of intergenerational trauma, decolonization, and ways to remain hopeful. The event was open to the public and a free pizza dinner was provided. The event was attended by an estimated 30 community members. Additionally, Lakota visited 3 high school classrooms and facilitated 1-hour workshops for students, addressing similar topics.

Quick Links for Parents and Students:

1. That’s Not Cool: https://thatsnotcool.com/
2. Love is Respect: https://www.loveisrespect.org/
3. I Know Mine: https://www.iknowmine.org/

Ketchikan students at the 2018 Lead On! conference in Anchorage.

6 Steps

1. Relationship Basics
2. Keep Respect Going
3. Building a Peer Culture
4. Leading the Way
5. Respecting Yourself
6. Getting Help
Do you know a youth who wants to make a difference in their community? Are they interested in learning more about leadership, healthy relationships, and healthy sexuality? Are you a community member interested in attending Lead On! as an adult mentor?

Contact W.I.S.H. at (907) 228-4090 or email at amy.m@wishak.org for more information about the Lead On! conference and the application process.

Funding for this program comes from the State of Alaska through a grant from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.