

Katie L. Dixon Women & Girls Leadership Endowed Fund

Accomplishments and Objectives

October 2007



Dr. Helen Graber and Dianne Cunningham brainstorm with Highland High School students about qualities that make a good leader.



Highland High School students discuss leadership within their school.



Perceptions Analyzed—Judge High School students discuss how they perceive the world and how they feel the world perceives them.

- Programs reach girls in grades 4 through 12
- In 2006-2007, College of Social Work program faculty and staff, along with University of Utah Bennion Center volunteers, conducted Forums at:
 - Murray High School
 - Judge Memorial High School
 - Highland High School
 - Riverview Junior High
 - Hillcrest Junior High
 - Salt Lake Arts Academy
 - Anna Smith Elementary – Wendover, Utah

Last year, some schools could only accommodate one Forum in their curricula; others had four. Foundation content on leadership, including interactive exercises among the girls, was provided at each school. A consistent theme among all the girls and all the schools was an interest in finding ways to bring different groups of girls together to overcome “cliques” and exclusion.

- In 2007-2008, Forums will be held at the above schools and at:
 - Odyssey Charter School
 - St. Ann’s Catholic School

Also during this year, we have plans to work with the Girl Scouts of America to increase diversity and reach more economically disadvantaged girls. We continue to receive requests for new programs in additional schools, frequently outside the Wasatch Front.

- When multiple Forums are held at a school, girls attend the initial leadership program and then select subsequent Forum topics from a wide-range of options including:
 - “Positive Attitude/Positive Action” (for elementary and junior high)
 - Communication skills – introducing each other
 - Mission statement of goals for next year
 - Outreach to new students
 - Journals for the summer
 - “What’s Cool?” (for high school)
 - Body image/self-esteem
 - Being a mentor/support for other younger girls
 - Outreach to new students
 - Journals for the summer