

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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Reno Sparks Chamber, School District Leadership Program Gets Rave Reviews

Reno, Nev., (May 13, 2010) - - The results are in and students who participated in a spring semester leadership development program gave it high marks. Thirty-six high school juniors from thirteen area high schools completed the program in April and were honored with a graduation ceremony on April 21 at Wooster High School. The Leadership Reno Sparks Youth program was established by the Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce in 1994 and is now co-sponsored by the Reno Sparks Chamber and the Washoe County School District.

The evaluation completed by the students showed that more than 90% of them felt the program made them stronger leaders, changed their perspectives on issues facing the community and exposed them to future career options. Comments received also demonstrate the value of the program. One student noted, "The life lessons I learned were valuable because it popped the bubble I was living in and made me realize something bigger than myself."

Students were selected in a competitive application process on the basis of their grades, leadership potential and recommendations. Over the last four months, students have been exposed to several important elements of the community in day-long workshops. Sessions included a team building exercise, an overview of law enforcement, a session on communications and the media and a workshop on "life after high school."

"This entire effort depends on community volunteers and we're indebted to them for their generosity," said Idora Silver, coordinator of the program. Silver said the guestspeakers, all of the venues and much of the materials and supplies were all donated by area businesses and individuals.

"The Reno Sparks Chamber recognizes the importance of developing future leaders, and is proud to be a founding partner of this program with the school district," said Bruce Gescheider of Moana Nursery, who is the Chamber's chair-elect.

As part of the program, and to learn about the importance of volunteerism, students had to complete a service project. One group of students served dinner to residents of the veteran's Guest House and assisted with spring cleanup there. Other groups combined

forces to establish a “community cabinet” at Sierra Vista Elementary School. They collected non-perishable food, hygiene items clothing and cash to assist the families at the school.

To ensure the program’s continued success in developing future leaders, contributions are being sought from citizens and local businesses. Anyone interested in donating is asked to contact Idora Silver at (775) 829-0606 or by email at idsilver@sbcglobal.net.

About Washoe County School District: The Washoe County School District includes the Reno/Sparks metropolitan area, Incline Village, Gerlach, Empire and Wadsworth, Nevada. The District provides each of its 63,000 students with a superior education in a safe and challenging environment and is committed to graduate every child career and college ready. For more information visit: www.washoecountyschools.org. Follow us on Twitter at [WCSDTweeet](#).

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