

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What is MYLI/ELD?

The Emerging Leaders Development (ELD) Program is a collaborative effort among El Pomar Foundation, leadership development programs, and minority-focused community organizations. The Multicultural Youth Leadership Initiative is a partnership between ELD, the Urban League of the Pikes Peak Region and El Pomar Foundation. MYLI was formed to identify issues facing youth in Colorado Springs, and bring those issues to the attention of school administrators.

What was the ELD/MYLI survey?

In the fall of 2005, over 2,300 high school students from across the Pikes Peak region took the ELD/MYLI survey. This broad, anonymous survey was constructed to identify factors that impact the ability of students to succeed. The Urban League staff compiled the survey data.

What happened in the focus groups?

On January 28, 2006, forty-five students from fourteen regional high schools gathered at El Pomar Penrose House to discuss the results of the MYLI survey. Six focus groups were facilitated by El Pomar Fellows and ELD program participants. In evaluations, students expressed surprise to learn that other schools faced the same issues. They were grateful for the opportunity to hear other students' experiences. Students were hopeful that schools would continue to exchange ideas and solutions, as they strongly felt this would help all students.

What did they find?

Students had an easy time discussing favoritism, peer pressure and drug/alcohol use; they are significant issues for them and their peers. Students had a more difficult time discussing self-esteem, due to its personal nature, and transportation, as very few expressed personal difficulties with the issue. Overall, students expressed a strong desire for more support and guidance from teachers, parents and school administrators. The hope for having trained peer counselors came up in relation to several issues.

Students discussed the issues of highest priority in the survey. Detailed reports follow are available

Student feedback from the focus groups included:

- "Awesome, because it gave me so much information about my community."
- "Today is going to make a difference in the future of Colorado public education."
- "It's good to see that people care."
- "I gained new knowledge from which I can better lead high school students to excellence."

El Pomar Foundation's Emerging Leadership Development (ELD) Program presents a community collaboration to empower youth:

2007 Multi-Cultural Youth Leadership Initiative (MYLI) Summit
Saturday, April 21, 2007 at Penrose House

“I Make a Difference”

Mission: To develop diverse leadership potential with a strong commitment to broad-based community involvement in Colorado Springs.

Students from diverse backgrounds have been nominated from area high schools to participate in this unique one-day conference experience.

The Multi-Cultural Youth Leadership Initiative Summit will:

- Engage students in cross-cultural dialogues on topics and problems that impact their education.
- Provide students with knowledge, skills, and abilities to empower them to influence and develop strategies that impact their long-term success in education.

Workshops Sessions were designed in response to a survey administered to El Paso County high school students. In the survey, - students responded to questions pertaining to issues of favoritism/racism, drugs/alcohol use, peer influence, family responsibilities, low self-esteem, economic difficulties, transportation, and school counselors.

Workshop Sessions Include:

- **Substance Abuse:** Discuss substance abuse issues with community leaders who have been there and are now in recovery. Gain understanding of the impact of the use of illicit drugs on students individually as well as the community-at-large.
- **One Person Can Make a Difference:** Learn how individual actions and responses to issues within the community can positively impact the community-at-large.
- **Making Money:** Looking for a part-time or summer job? Don't know how to write a résumé? Come learn more about joining the workforce and getting paid. Ever thought about starting your own business? Hear from someone who did and how you could too.
- **Community Involvement:** Learn how to become an active citizen within your community.

- **Life Balance:** Are you stressed out and/or unable to get things done? Learn about time management, planning and relaxation techniques that will contribute to your success.
- **The In's and Out's of Preparing for College:** Do you think college is out of reach? Do you want to go to college but need help with applying, finding financial aid, etc? Get a jump start by understanding the entire college process.
- **Safe2Tell:** Learn how to report things that put you, others, and our community in danger.
- **Goal Setting and Achievement:** What do you want to be when you grow up? Learn how to set short and long term goals for your dreams and aspirations and how to accomplish them.
- **Be Assertive not Aggressive:** Learn conflict resolution strategies to solve your problems and how to effectively communicate during difficult situations.
- **Diversity:** Learn to cope with racism, appreciate and embrace others' differences as well as to value their culture and experiences.

Summit Agenda

8:00-8:30	Registration and Breakfast
8:30-8:45	Welcome
8:45-9:00	Keynote Address
9:00-10:00	“Panel on Favoritism” with area superintendents
10:00-10:15	Break
10:15-11:15	Session 1
11:15-11:30	Break
11:30-12:30	Session 2
12:30-1:30	Lunch
1:30-2:30	Session 3
2:30-2:45	Break
2:45-3:30	Closing – Drum Circle

For more information, contact Christina Student @ 520-9899 or Christina@citizensproject.org