

Youth Congress of South Alabama 2008

February 16, 2008

The 2nd Annual Youth Congress of South Alabama met February 16 at Davidson High School from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There were 47 students in attendance from 18 high schools in Mobile and Baldwin Counties who served as delegates from 13 youth leadership programs. There were also 10 program advisors present.

The Youth Congress of South Alabama is a collaborative effort among local nonprofit organizations to bring high school students together to:

1. Share the work of fellow youth leadership organizations throughout the Mobile and Baldwin County areas
2. Support identified community needs that impact or can be led by youth
3. Promote policy change that improves positive youth development in the Mobile and Baldwin County communities.

Mr. Jeremiah Newell, Mobile Area Education Foundation, welcomed delegates. A representative from each youth program recognized their organization, members, and mission statement.

Under the leadership of Dr. Joel Lewis and Mr. Newell, Youth Congress discussed community issues and possible solutions. Attendees separated into three groups, one of which was only program advisors. Each group discussed questions focusing on youth development, realizing the value of young people, and building youth-friendly communities. Upon completion of group discussions, delegates reconvened to present each discussion group's three major points for each topic. Then they collectively decided on three major community needs on which to focus, the steps that should be taken to address these needs, and the challenges that possibly lay ahead.

The Youth Congress of 2008 decided to focus on:

1. Creating a central electronic information center that provides information on all youth programs (The Community Foundation of South Alabama offered to host the youth program information center on their website, www.communityendowment.com.)
2. Sharing each other's activities, collaborating on projects, uniting as one voice
3. Addressing possible solutions to peer pressure

The Youth Congress will reconvene in late spring to plan the execution of the above objectives.

The Youth Congress of 2008 delegates were:

Alma Bryant High School, 12th Grade	Cody W. Dockens	Youth Grant Allocation Board
B.C. Rain High School 11th Grade	Dominique Jones	Kappa League
Baker High School 11th Grade	Cobi Caples	Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Alabama
Baker High School 11th Grade	Davietta Green	Mobile Police Department Explorers
Baker High School 12th Grade	Marc McMillan	Crittenton Youth Services

Baker High School 12th Grade	John Noojin	Superintendents' Student Advisory Council
Bayside Academy 11th Grade	Chrisie DeGraff	Eastern Shore Chamber Youth Leadership
Blount High School, 11th Grade	Torrian Davis	Kappa League
Blount High School, 11th Grade	Shanquilla Overstreet	Superintendents' Student Advisory Council
Fairhope High School 11th grade	Payton Tanner	Youth Grant Allocation Board
Fairhope High School 12th Grade	Elizabeth B. Cameron	Youth Grant Allocation Board
Faith Academy, 11th Grade	Justin Walker	Kappa League
Home Schooled 12th Grade	Ross Coker	Eastern Shore Chamber Youth Leadership
LeFlore High School 11th grade	Jessica Payne	Culturama Program
Leflore High School 9th Grade	Frantasia Sullivan	Mobile Police Department Explorers
Mary G. Montgomery 12th Grade	Kimberly Everett	Superintendents' Student Advisory Council
McGill Toolen 10th Grade	Cameron Pearl	Youth Leadership Mobile
McGill Toolen 12th Grade	Chelsea Fenton	Volunteer Mobile
McGill Toolen 12th Grade	Caroline C. Wilson	Youth Grant Allocation Board
Mobile Christian 12th Grade	Chelsea L. Gallaher	Crittenton Youth Services
Mobile Christian 12th Grade	Aaron Spurlock	Crittenton Youth Services
Murphy High School 11th Grade	Andrea Thomas	Drug Education Council Inc.
Murphy High School 11th Grade	Brooke Thomas	Drug Education Council Inc.
Murphy High School 10th Grade	Ka'Leah Rodgers	Youth Leadership Mobile
Murphy High School 11th Grade	Roshedah Wallace	Culturama Program
Murphy High School 11th Grade	Wil Amanor	Students Working Against Tobacco
Murphy High School 11th Grade	Katelyn Burk	Students Working Against Tobacco
Murphy High School 11th Grade	Sujata Mulekar	Students Working Against Tobacco
Murphy High School 12th Grade	Valencia Potter	Drug Education Council Inc.
Satsuma High School 12th Grade	Cleveland Hilton II	Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Alabama
Satsuma High School 12th Grade	Rachel Nicholas	Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Alabama
Satsuma High School 11th Grade	Tyler New	Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Alabama
Satsuma High School 11th Grade	Jacob Hyde	Superintendents' Student Advisory Council
Spanish Fort High School 11th Grade	Amy Tippit	Eastern Shore Chamber Youth Leadership
St. Paul's Episcopal School 11th Grade	Matt Lasecki	Drug Education Council Inc.
St. Paul's Episcopal School 11th Grade	Sloan Blaylock	Young Life Mobile Bay Area
St. Paul's Episcopal School 11th Grade	Anne Rutledge	Young Life of Mobile Bay Area
St. Paul's Episcopal School 11th Grade	Bowman Givhan	Young Life Mobile Bay Area
St. Paul's High School 12th Grade	Breck Pappas	Youth Leadership Mobile
Theodore High School 12th Grade	Chris Jones	Crittenton Youth Services
UMS Wright 11th Grade	Alexander Twilley	Young Life Mobile Bay Area
UMS Wright, 11th Grade	Mike Turner	Kappa League
	Matthew Etheredge	Mobile Police Department Explorers
	Sylvia Holley	Mobile Police Department Explorers
	Qynaon McCall	Mobile Police Department Explorers
	La'Brisha Riley	Mobile Police Department Explorers

The youth programs represented were: Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Alabama; Crittenton Youth Services; Culturama Program; Drug Education Council Inc.; Eastern Shore Chamber Youth Leadership; Kappa League; Mobile Police Department Explorers; Students Working Against Tobacco; Superintendents' Student Advisory Council; Volunteer Mobile; Young Life Mobile Bay Area; Youth Grant Allocation Board; Youth Leadership Mobile.

Youth Congress 2008 is under the leadership of Jeremiah Newell, Mobile Area Education Foundation; Virginia Guy, Drug Education Council; Dr. Joel Lewis, Youth Leadership Mobile and USA College of Education; Dr. Carl Cunningham, USA Office of Multicultural Affairs; and Janine Phillips, The Community Foundation of South Alabama. For more information on the program call Ms. Phillips at 438-5591.