

## Report on Live Your Dream 2017 Conference

Date: Saturday, November 4, 2017

Time: 8:00am – 3:00pm

Location: Dutchess Community College

Co-Chairs: Diana Babington and Lori Scolaro

### Background:

- Conference planning meetings began on February 6, 2017, and were held monthly on Monday evening at 5:30 pm in Hudson Hall, room 315, on the DCC main campus. This was a positive change for 2017, since the meeting space is available at no charge, saving the fees paid when meetings were held at St John's. (Meetings were not held in March, July or August, and there were two planning meetings held in October, plus a post-conference reflection meeting held in November.) Meetings were publicized in The Branch newsletter.
- The co-chair model clearly works best for successful planning and delivery of the LYD Conference. Having Diana Babington's knowledge of AAUW and LYD in the mix along with Lori Scolaro acting as the Dutchess Community College liaison made for a fabulous combination of leadership.
- The Lunch with Women Leaders segment and well as the Parent Workshop Series were once again included and very well received. The Big Sister role was key to the guidance the girls received throughout the day.
- To forge relationship building, the girls were grouped together and paired with a least two Big Sisters for the day. Grouping considerations included interest areas indicated on the registration form (to allow for a fit for workshops attended), grade-level and school.

### Participants:

- 52 of 71 registrants attended – no show analysis indicated the greatest number of no shows came from those who registered most immediately prior to the conference
- Grade-Level Breakdown – Grade 6 (27), Grade 7 (44)
- From 20 local elementary and middle schools, plus home schoolers
- Schools represented the greatest – Poughkeepsie MS (8), Rombout MS (8), Wappingers JHS (5), and Haviland MS, Marlboro MS and Holy Trinity each with (4)
- When asked how they heard about the conference – Returner (14), Friend (12), School (12), Guidance Counselor (7), Girl Scouts FB Page (5), Math & Science Matters (2), and several other methods yielded one or two participants

### Planning Committee:

- Consisted of 16 members including the co-chairs, with a few new members stemming from the AAUW Open House volunteer sign-up and interests indicated on the AAUW membership form.
- Sub-committees were established to complete the varying tasks necessary to execute the conference, including: Conference Registration, Marketing Materials Development, Participant Recruitment, Advertising, Budget Development and Fund-Raising (Divas, Dreamers & Darlings campaign), Publicity and Social Media Promotion, Participant Journal Preparation, "Big Sister" Recruitment, "Big Sister" Training, Workshop Presentations, Lunch with Women Leaders, Activism Activities, Girl Talks, Closing Celebration, Parent Workshop Series, Conference Program Design, Conference Entrance Activity (Self-Portrait Collage), Participant Packet Preparation, Participant Name Tags and Completion Certificates, and Conference Evaluation
- Other tasks include: room reservations and set-up coordination, food ordering and catering coordination, securing Maria DeWald and Pamela Edington for welcome remarks, and establishing volunteer assignments and schedule for the day of the conference.

### Conference Volunteers:

- Total – 23
- Tasks included: set-up, check-in/registration, monitor breakfast area, assisting with girls’ entrance activity, lunch help, presiders for workshop sessions, clean up, etc. Specific assignments were given.

### Big Sisters:

- Big sisters are college students who volunteered to guide the girls throughout the day. Formal training was conducted to prepare the Big Sisters to fulfill their role.
- A thank you dinner for the Big Sisters was hosted in November, with lots of thoughtful feedback and ideas shared.
- Number of Big Sisters and Colleges Represented –
  - SUNY New Paltz students – 2
  - Marist College students – 6
  - Dutchess Community College students – 9

### Workshop Sessions:

- Workshop topics were included to fully support the LYD Conference mission and purpose. With clear connections to the Conference goals, topics focused on girls’ personal development and how girls can make a positive impact on their community.
- Details –

<b>Workshop Facilitator</b>	<b>Job Title/ Organization</b>	<b>Workshop Title</b>
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish	Professor, Department of English and Humanities, DCC	Cultural Immersion... What Makes Me, Me?
Christie Van Horne	Community Educator	Cross the Line
Anthula Natsoulas	Professor Emeritus, Math Education, University of Toledo	Women Codebreakers: Deciphering Secret Messages
Laura Bagnarol	Social Advocate	“Yes, I Play” – The Pigskin Princess Project
Poet Gold Wilkerson	Spoken Word Performance Artist, Member of Arts Mid-Hudson	Dreams – “A Poetic Experience”
Monica Idema	Community Educator, Grace Smith House	The Masks We Wear – Defining Who We Are
Ivy Reeves	Founder & Program Director, Important Values for Youth	F-O-C-U-S G-R-O-U-P – Defining Who You Are
Liz Torres	Children, Teen & Young Adult Certified Yoga Instructor, Mindful Yoga with Liz	Mindful Yoga
Roza Makhmudova	Coordinator of Transfer Services, DCC Therapy Dog Handler	Gaila – The Therapy Dog
Sarah Mount	Environmental Educator, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation	The Incredible Journey of the American Eel

### Lunch with Women Leaders:

- Number of women leaders from our community – 23
- Girls sat round table with a women leader (or two) in their groups along with their assigned Big Sisters, engaging in conversation over lunch
- Table set up included name signs for the women leaders and discussion director questions to guide conversation

### Activism Activities:

- Local agencies who participated with an activity for the girls to engage in that provide for community needs included:

- AAUW “Leading to Reading”
- AAUW “Days for Girls”
- The Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie
- Grace Smith House
- Meals on Wheels

“Girl Talk” Discussion Circles:

- The girls met in small groups to discuss friendship, relationships, school, sisterhood and safety.
- Girl Talk Facilitators included –

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Affiliation</b>
Kate Collins	Academic Coach, ACT Center, Dutchess Community College
Jennifer Wrage	Director, Academic Services & Testing, Dutchess Community College
Paula Lockshon	Human Services, Field Lab Supervisor, Dutchess Community College
Domonique Garrett	Therapist, LMSW Astor Services for Children and Families
Christie Van Horne	Community Educator
Ivy Reeves	Program Director, “Important Values for Youth”
Aimee Paola	School Counselor, LaGrange MS
Michele Pollock Rich	Executive Director, Grace Smith House
Sue Kennen	DCC Faculty Member
Mary Camburn	Guidance Counselor, Todd MS
Lacie Reilly	Human Services, Field Lab Supervisor Dutchess Community College
Cindy Worrad	Assistant Dean, School of Computer Science & Mathematics, Marist College

Parent Workshop Series:

- Number of attendees – 16
- Very positive feedback received on evaluations.
- Hosted by Sue Doyle and Mary Lou Davis, programming included –
  - Workshop Session 1 – Guiding Our Girls Through MS Transitions  
Joann Klein, School Social Worker, Spackenkill Union Free School District
  - Workshop Session 2 – Social Media & Internet Safety  
Investigator Timothy Milone, Computer Crime Unit, New York State Police
  - Open Discussion – Q & A – “College Prep & Planning”  
Diana Babington, Retired School Counselor

Budget Details:

- Our records indicate a beginning account balance of – \$2,099.33
- Income Generated – \$2,309 (\$355 from Registration Fee and \$1,954 from Divas, Dreamers and Darlings campaign, plus additional designated donations)
- Writer’s Tea Allotment – \$1,500
- Expenses – \$3,092.37 (largest expenses were for catering at \$2,019 and bus transportation for the Poughkeepsie MS attendees at \$620.50)
- Summary – (\$2,099.33 + \$2,309 + \$1,500 = \$5,908.33) - \$3,092.37 = \$2,815.96

- The income generated from the Divas, Dreamers and Darlings campaign and additional individual donations clearly gives evidence that Live Your Dream is supported by AAUW members. Additionally, the allotment from the Writer's Tea demonstrates the AAUW board's support of Live Your Dream. For 2018, this continued level of support is necessary. In 2016, lanyards and swag bags were purchased at \$1,657.38, and the supply was used in both 2016 and 2017. In 2018, another purchase of these items will need to be made. To allow for inventory for both 2018 and 2019 the estimated expense is about \$1,800. With this and anticipating a minimum of 10 % increase for catering, the budget request from the Writer's Tea for 2018 is \$1,500, once again.

#### Summary Evaluation and Chairs' Comments:

Although we didn't have the registrant attendance numbers of 2016, we are very pleased with the outcomes for 2017. When we expand our frame of thought, we could take into account that Live Your Dream positively affected upwards of 45 or so adult women involved with the conference as volunteers, workshop presenters and girl talk facilitators, many playing multiple roles, 17 college women who fulfilled the role of Big Sisters and 52 middle-school aged girls, an impact that weighs well over our number of participants in 2016. Also, noteworthy is the opportunity to have 20 plus influential community women observe the greatness of Live Your Dream during the Lunch with Women Leaders segment. Additionally, community engagement crossed over to the 16 parents who attended the Parent Workshop Series and the girls got involved in Activism Activities to satisfy needs of five local agency programs.

We recommend expanding to eighth grade (in addition to sixth and seventh) in 2018. For returning girls, this could create an opportunity to attend LYD up to three times, allowing for an even greater impact. Another benefit is economies with promotion in the middle schools, with all potential grade levels included, marketing and promotion efforts are further reaching. Keeping in mind that developmentally, there is substantial difference between grade levels, eighth grade girls will be in separate groups with mixed groups for sixth and seventh graders. Of note, in 2016, when sixth grade was added (to the seventh grade original target) this change went over well, in a very seamless manner.

Diana Babington and Lori Scolaro are pleased to co-chair again next year.

Submitted by: Diana Babington and Lori Scolaro

Date: 4/30/18