



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service

Westchester County (NY) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated

COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

COMMITTEE/FACET NAME: International Trends & Services

MEETING DATE AND TIME/ATTENDEES: Conference call was held on Monday, January 11, 2016. The following Links were present on this call: Barbara Gundy, Janis Shaw, Jackie Boucher, Javette Hines, Barbara Edwards, Joyce Mills Kitterell, Terry Joyner, and Delores Brathwaite. The total time for the call was 2 hours.

December/January Calendar Items:

1. December 10th -Human Rights Day at the YWCA Links Terry, B. Edwards, B. Gundy, Joyce, and Jackie December 14th -Links Joyce K., Barbara G. and Jackie B. met staff/administrators & toured Gorton HS
- 2.* December 16th- **Model UN:** Woodlands High School vs Mt. Vernon High School Woodlands L.I.F.E. students (15) traveled to Mt. Vernon HS to debate "**Climate Change**". Chris Vaccaro sent a summary and photos of this event with student comments. (**see attachment**)
3. January 21, 2016- Greenburgh Human Rights Advisory Comm. Mtg. at 7:30P.M.
4. Schools are in high stakes testing mode during **January**. No activities are on the calendar. Link Joyce, Jackie, and Barbara Gundy will visit Mt. Vernon HS to participate in Book discussion in February. Mr. "M" will confirm date(s).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

Continued discussion regarding the upcoming **ITS Facet Chapter February 27th** chapter presentation-

- Link Delores Brathwaite will make a presentation regarding the national **Jamaica Global Linkage Program**. Links Delores and B. Gundy will reach out to Link Lisa and ask her to work with Link Delores on this presentation. The ITS Facet donated \$200.00 to support this national initiative.
- * Woodlands High School L.I.F.E. student, **Chanya Holness**, will present her highly acclaimed documentary, which explains the international **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) recently adopted by the United States/United Nations. (**see attached SDGs**)
- The **Arts Facet** will continue to support **integrated program activities** with the **ITS Facet**. Cultural trips are planned for this spring to The Studio Museum, in Harlem, and a theater production- featuring award winning actress Lupita Nyong'o. Information has been forwarded to our partners.

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION AT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:

Members agreed that perhaps we could continue to plan and develop an umbrella project and move forward with continued integrated activities (Arts Facet) this program year. Please see attached (**SDGs**) that address all National Program initiatives. We will discuss in greater detail with Links Dianne and Marilyn.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION AT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: None

MOTIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER: None

* SEE ATTACHMENTS

Submitted by Link Jackie Boucher Date January 15, 2016

ATTACHMENTS

Mount Vernon and Woodlands' High School Links U.N. Members Collaborate for 21st Century Solutions Comments

On December 16, 2015, students from Mount Vernon and Woodlands High Schools met at Mount Vernon High School to engage in a spirited and meaningful debate regarding the issue of Climate Change and Global Warming. Social Studies teacher, and adviser, for the Westchester (NY) Chapter of The Links, Mr. Mihailidis invited the Woodlands U.N./ Westchester County (NY) Chapter of The Links students to debate "Climate Change". All students participate in the L.I.F.E. program sponsored by the Links, Incorporated.

This discussion utilized the established Model U.N. process/practices and a collaborative effort that produced an engaging and enriching experience for all. Students were encouraged to talk through issues and learn from each other. Woodlands' students became familiar with the complex process of a Model U.N. through the guidance of the experienced Mount Vernon students.

"I was nervous at first, being in a new environment, but the Mount Vernon students made me feel welcome. I want to have a Model U.N. at our school, now".

Woodlands HS Junior Kiara Luis

The Model U.N. was completely organized and controlled by the students from both schools. The adults in the room simply watched as the events unfolded, allowing students to grow academically, as well as personally through self-discovery. It was truly inspiring to witness.

"I enjoyed the fact that the discussion was student led".

Woodlands HS Junior Brianna Parkinson

"A fantastic experience, each discussion allowed us to grow as human beings, learn about something we did not know and experience a level of power and control".

Woodlands HS Junior Treia Boozier

Students researched specific and relevant information regarding how global warming affects an assigned country. The goal was to expose students to the solution making process and give them a platform to express themselves. Once students conquered their initial nerves, they were able to relax and truly enjoy the moment.

"It was interesting to discuss global topics with other high school students, who were very knowledgeable about global issues".

Woodlands Senior Katie Sims

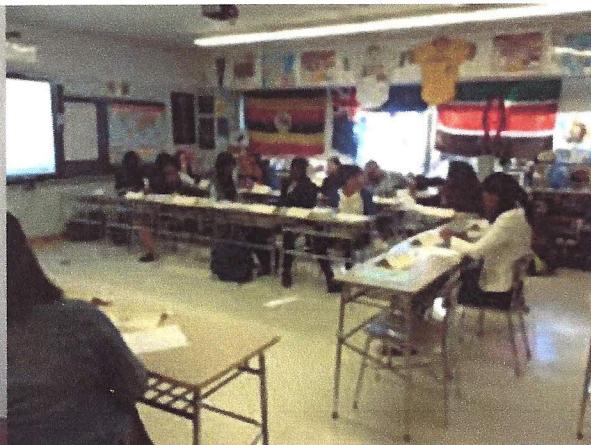
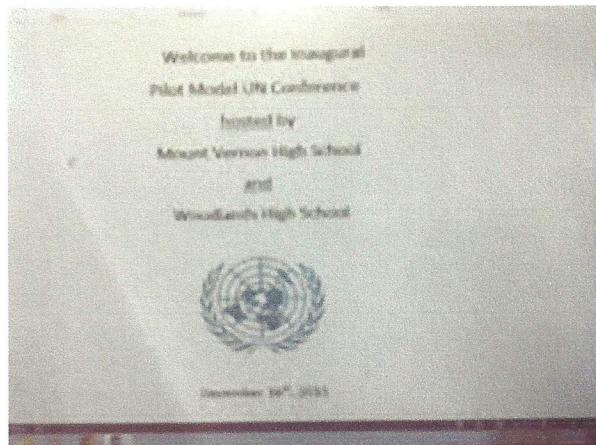
(1)

As the morning proceeded, all involved gained a sense of confidence that was infectious and palpable.

"It was an interesting experience and it felt good to represent Woodlands".
Junior Lia Crayne-Dedrick

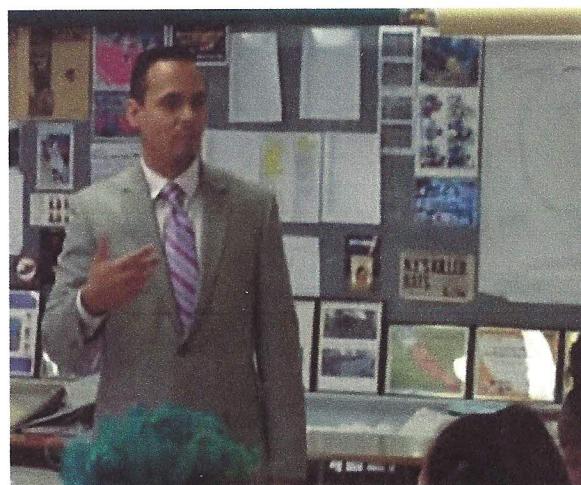
Sophomore Daniel Atanze described her experience as, *"a positively mind blowing experience"*. The Westchester (NY) Chapter of the Links have brought these amazing opportunities for young people into our Westchester schools. These dedicated women tirelessly search out experiences for broadening and inspiring the next generation. Thank You Links!!

Prepared by Chris Vaccaro
UN/Links @Woodlands High School Teacher Advisor



The invitation was sent to students and staff.

The setting for the Model UN discussion



Principal Ronald Gonzalez welcomed the students
(2)



Students prepare a response



Students defend their position against Climate abuses



Student Delegate (Great Britain) makes a point in favor of alerting world citizens about the causes of global warming

(Click Below) ***The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)***

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

(3)