

2017 Future of Feminism Youth Conference

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On May 25, 2017, approximately 130 youth and adult attendees participated in the "Future of Feminism" conference for girls of color and allies of all genders at the Foundation Center in South Los Angeles. Spearheaded by young women of color, with a focus on intersectional feminism, the L.A. County Human Relations Commission Women's Leadership Project (WLP) conference was the first of its kind in South L.A. Participating schools and organizations included Dorsey High School, King-Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science,



WLP alumni emcee the event



WLP Future of Feminism Panel

Gardena High School, Miguel Contreras Learning Complex, Fremont High School, the LAUSD School Police, David & Margaret Youth and Family Services, Barrio Youth in Action and the L.A. Commission for Children and Families. Students attended youth-led workshops on the intersection of sexual violence and homelessness; media representation, mental



Students from Miguel Contreras Learning Center facilitate a workshop on Sexual Violence & Homelessness

health and intimate partner violence; combatting every day sexism, racism, colorism and heterosexism at school campuses; redressing the school-to-prison pipeline through transformative justice; and deconstructing transphobia and homophobia through the examination of social norms such as dress, speech and gender-coded behavior. Partner organizations Youth Justice Coalition, Media Done Responsibly, Peace Over Violence and the GSA Network (in collaboration with Fremont High School and the Trans Youth Support Network) provided support. The conference was emceed by WLP alumni, who are currently attending local universities opened the event with a video highlighting youth perspectives on intersectional feminism. WLP college alum were also featured in a panel on feminism and advocacy. The students hailed from UCLA, UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine, Mount St Mary's University, CSUN, CSULB, El Camino College and UCSC. Topics included identity, colorism, navigating racism/sexism and white supremacy in academia, pushing back against Eurocentric beauty standards, and community activism. The event concluded with a commentary and presentation by King-Drew Leadership and Feminism Club students on the significance for women's rights, civil liberties, free speech and feminist self-determination. St. John's Health Center, the Youth Justice Coalition and the Positive Results Corporation provided informational tables for conference participants.

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