

What the students said:

"I learned that I, we can make a difference."

– Westfield HS



"I learned to accept people, not judge them, and to be yourself."

– East Hampton HS



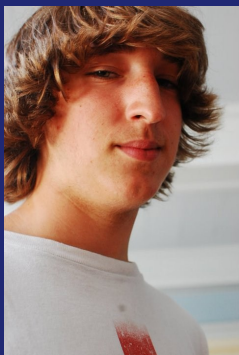
"I made new friends and feel empowered to change my environment."

– East Windsor HS



"I learned about myself, and how I'm different and alike the people sitting in the room with me."

– Classical Magnet HS



Photos courtesy of NCCJ youth Leader, Sophia Dzialo.



The National Conference for Community (NCCJ) is a human relations organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry, and racism through education, advocacy, and conflict resolution.

EXPERIENCE OUR PROGRAMS:

ANYTOWN: ANYTOWN is a nationally recognized and award winning diversity, leadership, and social justice program for youth ages 15-18. For six days, a diverse group of 60 high school students come together to build a community based on respect, understanding, and inclusivity. Through fun and engaging workshops, Delegates along with 25 staff members explore the thoughts, opinions and experiences we all share on topics like bias, bigotry, oppression, and social change. Through this dialogue, the Delegates are taken on an inspiring journey to create a model for an ideal community in which members move beyond tolerating each others differences to celebrating them. It is the goal of ANYTOWN to equip youth leaders with the knowledge and skills to transform their communities into places where individual differences are seen as positive tools that bring people together.

ANYTOWN Youth Action Coalition (YAC): A group that takes a youth centered approach to creating positive change in our communities and schools. YAC is made up of ANYTOWN Alumni who learn to work together to fight bias and bigotry through action projects idealized at ANYTOWN.

The YES! Campaign: The YES! Campaign is a national, youth-led movement to transform school cultures into safe, welcoming, and inclusive communities for all students. YES! empowers youth to lead this change by respecting youth as experts in their own experience; promoting youth ideas, voices, and leaders; and connecting youth nationwide to engage and inspire each other. YES! provides the tools, and youth build the community.

Faculty Training Programs: A custom designed organizational development programs facilitated by trained NCCJ staff. These workshops address a variety of social justice issues and guide school faculty toward the development of positive and supportive school environments.



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A TWO-DAY ANTI-BULLYING AND PREJUDICE REDUCTION PROGRAM DESIGNED TO EDUCATE, LIBERATE, AND EMPOWER YOUTH TO MAKE POSITIVE CHANGE IN THEIR SCHOOLS.

BRIDGING THE GAPS THAT SEPARATE PEOPLE.



nccj The National Conference for Community and Justice

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BRIDGING THE GAPS

What is BRIDGES?

BRIDGES is a two day prejudice-reduction and youth leadership program that empowers young people to create positive change in their school community. During two days, a group of 20–25 diverse students and 2–3 faculty come together to explore the feelings, attitudes, experiences and prejudices we hold about people who are different from us. Participants are challenged to examine the connection between prejudicial thoughts and actions, and how we can work together to make our communities safe, inclusive, and bias-free for all.

BRIDGES is a **process** as well as a program. The curriculum focuses on the importance of understanding and appreciating individuals regardless of their identities. Participants will be engaged and excited to acknowledge and celebrate our differences and our similarities. The program develops multiple skills that help students become educated leaders in an increasingly diverse world.



98% understand terms like stereotype, prejudice, and discrimination.

96% report an increase in their awareness of how these words affect their life and others around them.



81% strongly agree that bias affects the climate of their school.

96% report they will work to make positive change at their school.

91% report they are interested in working to educate other students at their school.

Why BRIDGES?

BRIDGES educates, liberates, and empowers young people to make change. BRIDGES curriculum is designed on three basic philosophies that has been proven to reduce bias and increase self-esteem, learn leadership skills, and gain confidence. All activities meet one or more of the following philosophies:

- **To have a positive sense of self.**
- **To have a positive view of others.**
- **To gain critical thinking skills.**

Many BRIDGES graduates have returned to their schools and put into action a variety of activities including organizing a school-wide diversity day, making recommendations to administration on the creation of a more inclusive school, and restructuring social events to accommodate the increasingly diverse needs of today's students.

Who Should Attend?

BRIDGES is designed to meet the learning styles of diverse students. Through large and small group discussions, media presentations, games, and hands-on activities, participants work to recognize how their social identities (race, class, gender, etc.) impact them. We encourage schools to put together a team of 25 students who are a representation of the student body, along with 2–3 faculty who will support student initiatives after the training.

92% report they will give more thought to the messages they receive from the books they read, movies they watch, music they listen to, and the Internet as a result of the BRIDGES training.

How much does it Cost?

The cost of BRIDGES is \$2500 which includes all materials for students, one to two facilitators for two days, transportation, and a follow up meeting with the students on an as needed basis. We understand that school budgets are challenging as it is, therefore we practice a sliding scale policy. We also help schools ideate fundraising strategies, and any grant writing help you may need to get the program funded.

For More Information, Contact:

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