

# TESD Diversity Committee 2017-2018

The District Diversity Committee was held on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at the Tredyffrin/Easttown Administrative Office. The guiding question for the meeting was:

***“How does TESD support the development of leadership skills within our diverse student population through participation in the Delaware Valley Consortium for Excellence and Equity?”***

The meeting began with Dr. Oscar Torres welcoming the committee members, students, faculty, staff, parents, community members, School Board Ambassador and administration.

The first presentation focused on the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Middle School Leadership Institute which was held in December at the University of Pennsylvania. Assistant Principals Ms. Kimberly Morris and Dr. Jacquelyn Rothera provided an overview of the day and introduced the student presenters. Students from T/E Middle School and Valley Forge Middle School who attended the Institute shared their impressions of the speakers and what they had learned from the workshop sessions. Each student was impacted by the presenters, sharing that they had learned the importance of overcoming obstacles and demonstrating leadership skills in school through group activities and joining or starting clubs. The committee was very impressed with the middle school students' presentations as well as their ability to identify ways they could use their new skills within their schools. Committee members suggested that some of the presenters from the Institute could be invited to our middle schools in the future to reach additional students and help cultivate their leadership potential before they get to Conestoga High School.

Mrs. Ashley Strouse and the Conestoga Students who attended the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual High School Leadership Institute also shared their experiences with their sessions as well as with the Keynote Speakers. These leadership Institutes are unique because they teach leadership skills through the lens of diversity. The theme of the Institute was, “Overcome Your Fears and Let Your Dreams Soar”. Some students shared what they learned including understanding their individuality and how individual experiences, challenges and opportunities impact their views of school as well as the TE community.

The committee discussed ways the District may be able to replicate some of the students' experiences at these leadership institutes within our schools. Students volunteered to visit schools across the District to support other students who want to develop clubs. These clubs could foster leadership skills through participation in diversity-centered activities.

Our next Diversity Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the TEAO Administrative Offices. Hope you can attend!