

Press Releases

02-16-11 Orange County Youth Leaders Attend NYS Youth Forum in Albany

NFA Students Conduct SAVY Workshop

Eight Orange County high school students traveled to Albany recently to participate in the 2011 Youth Leadership Forum with more than 200 other youth representing programs throughout New York State. The trip to the conference was coordinated by the Orange County Youth Bureau. The event is hosted annually by the Association of NYS Youth Bureaus. Students represented Newburgh, Middletown, and Pine Bush school districts.



Orange County student youth leaders from Newburgh, Middletown, and Pine Bush school districts recently attended the 2011 Youth Leadership Forum in Albany. While there, the students and their Orange County Youth Bureau hosts met with NYS representatives, including Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther.

While at the conference, the youth participated in workshops and met with their local NYS representatives to talk about the upcoming State budget and its implications for youth programs. Orange County's students had the opportunity to meet with NYS State Senators William J. Larkin and John Bonacic, as well as Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther. Brenda Anais, a senior from Middletown High School, was invited by Assemblywoman Gunther to join her as a guest on the cable television show "This Week in Albany."

The students from Newburgh Free Academy presented a workshop at the forum to share the high school's program SAVY – Students Against Violence in Youth. NFA students developed this successful anti-violence campaign last year in response to several incidents that occurred within their school and community. By sharing it at the state-wide conference, they hope other students will replicate the program in their own schools. SAVY was the recipient of the Orange County Executive's Youth Award at the Youth Bureau's annual luncheon last summer.



"National research shows that peer to peer programs have a significant impact on students. The students from NFA did a fantastic job presenting their anti-violence program, SAVY, to their peers across New York. They were very well-received and I believe other schools will soon be modeling this program," said Carol Chichester, Orange County Youth Bureau Executive Director. "All of the youth leaders who attended the conference for Orange County were excellent representatives of our community; I was very proud to host them for this excellent learning opportunity."

Orange County Youth Bureau hosts a variety of programs for youth throughout the year. For more information, visit the Youth Bureau pages on the Orange County website at www.orangecountygov.com or call (845) 615-3620.