OVERVIEW
The Prejudice Awareness Summit (PAS) is an intensive day-long workshop for middle school students that leads to a year of programming designed to increase awareness, knowledge, and acceptance of differences. Schools send teams of students and an educator to the forum. While there, they develop action plans to share the program message with their school community.

GOAL
To increase middle school youth's sensitivity to and awareness of diversity issues so that they can create school and community environments free from the distractions of prejudice, stereotypes, and bigotry.

OBJECTIVES
By the end of the program, participants will:
• Increase understanding of what prejudice is, decrease stereotypic attitudes, and develop an expanded awareness of discrimination and the harmful effects on individuals, groups, and communities
• Be exposed to diverse perspectives
• Build relationships with peers from a similar geographic area
• Develop an increased sense of personal empowerment and recognize the positive impact they, as individuals and as groups of students, can have on their own schools and communities

WHERE
In the 2019–2020 school year, Prejudice Awareness Summit forums sponsored by Genworth took place in two regions of Virginia. On October 18, 2019, Virginia Commonwealth University hosted the Richmond program, which included attendees from twenty schools across the counties of Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan, and the city of Richmond. On January 15, 2020, Randolph College hosted the Lynchburg program, which included attendees from eight schools across Appomattox County, Farmville, Lynchburg City, Roanoke, and Staunton.

PARTICIPANTS BY REGION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Facilitators</th>
<th>Logistical Volunteers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lynchburg</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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COALITION PARTNERS

Lynchburg
• Office of Equity and Inclusion at University of Lynchburg
• YWCA of Central Virginia

Richmond
• Communities in Schools of Richmond
• Partnership for the Future
• YMCA of Greater Richmond
• YWCA of Richmond
While students were in their breakout sessions, educators went through their own session. During that time, they previewed some of the activities that their students were experiencing and considered ways to apply these concepts to their school environments through culturally relevant teaching practices. At each session, educators appreciated the opportunity to converse openly with one another about the challenges they face and the practices they have implemented in their own schools. Finally, they engaged with practical tips for supporting their students in action planning. Educators reported that the day inspired them to set aside more intentional, consistent time to open dialogue up for both students and staff groups in order to build trust. In addition, many shared that they would incorporate what they learned in the session into future professional development programming.

In Their Own Words:

▶ “I’m stronger than I think when it comes to standing up for myself and others”
▶ “If we really tried, we could make our school a better place”
▶ “I’ve learned to respect others’ race, ethnicities, and opinions”
▶ “I am a powerful person”
▶ “We can talk about our problems”
▶ “I should accept just who I am”
▶ “I’m not alone”
▶ “I can change the world”