

## FINAL REPORT

**ABOUT PREJUDICE AWARENESS SUMMIT 2021-2022**

### OVERVIEW

The Prejudice Awareness Summit (PAS) is an intensive day-long workshop for middle school students designed to increase awareness, knowledge, and acceptance of differences. Schools send teams of students to the forum, coordinated by an educator-sponsor. While there, they develop action plans to share the program message with their school community. The PAS was founded by Jewish Women International.



### 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 2021-2022 school year, Prejudice Awareness Summits sponsored by Atlantic Union Bank took place in each of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities' chapter areas. On October 13, 2021, fourteen schools from Goochland, Henrico, New Kent, and Richmond sent students to the Richmond program. On February 1, 2022, the inaugural Peninsula program included attendees from three schools representing Hampton, Newport News, and Williamsburg. On February 17, 2022, attendees from both Lynchburg and Tidewater gathered, with representatives from Appomattox, Charlottesville, Chesapeake, Lynchburg, and Norfolk schools.

### COALITION PARTNERS

#### Lynchburg

- University of Lynchburg
- YWCA of Central Virginia

#### Peninsula

- Hampton Roads Community Action Program
- People to People
- YMCA of the Virginia Peninsula

#### Richmond

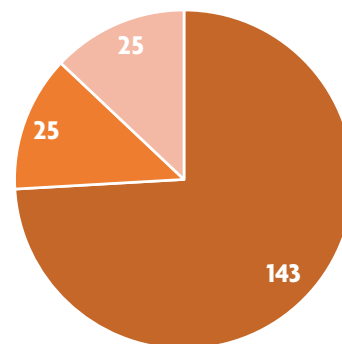
- Children's Home Society
- Leadership Metro Richmond
- Partnership for the Future
- YWCA of Richmond

#### Tidewater

- Norfolk State University
- Old Dominion University

### PARTICIPANTS

193 Total Participants



■ Students ■ Educators ■ Facilitators

# PREJUDICE AWARENESS SUMMIT

A PROGRAM OF

MADE POSSIBLE BY



VIRGINIA CENTER FOR  
**INCLUSIVE**  
COMMUNITIES



# 90%

of students said that they had a better understanding of prejudice, stereotypes, bias, and discrimination

# 87%

of students said that they had an increased awareness of the experiences of people who are different than themselves

# 85%

of educators said that they felt more motivated to support students to reduce prejudice in their school

## In Their Own Words:

- ▶ “I learned how others at my school felt and what experiences they have gone through.”
- ▶ “I learned that my concerns are valid and other people share my thoughts.”
- ▶ “I have the power to help people and stand up for others more.”
- ▶ “I learned that I, just myself and one person, can help end bullying.”
- ▶ “I learned that my school is willing to change for the better.”
- ▶ “I expressed myself and went out of my comfort zone.”
- ▶ “I can make a difference by standing up more often.”
- ▶ “I found out that I want to work against prejudice by making sure everyone’s cultures/backgrounds feel welcomed at school.”

## FOLLOW UP

Thanks to Atlantic Union Bank’s generous support, schools were allowed to apply for funding to support their plan, or to hold follow up workshops conducted by VCIC. Several schools pursued these options in order to buy needed supplies and to benefit from VCIC’s experience with plan implementation.

Through the follow-up workshops, students were able to openly discuss the challenges they are facing while also tapping into the motivation sparked by the Prejudice

“The outcome of the project is that we have started to change the school culture with a small group of students. Our hope is that this small ripple will begin to influence our other students to be kind, inclusive, and to not be a bystander when they witness negative behaviors. Next year, the students that participated in the summit will continue the work that we have started this year. We hope that this new program will grow and flourish.”

Awareness Summit. As a result of these sessions, schools carried out plans aimed at changing their school climate for the better by assessing images in their hallway and updating them to better represent the student body, as well as a collaborative art project designed to promote awareness.



## EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

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. 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 carrying the work forward in their schools. One educator shared “Even though I have attended many times in the past, it is still a bright spot and always something new to learn.”