



Kenosha County Youth in Governance
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2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

BACKGROUND

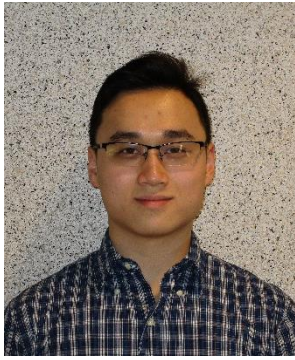
Youth leadership development is critical in building civic capacity and long-term community sustainability in Kenosha County. Programs that teach useful skills and build the self-confidence of young people ensure capable, effective leaders for the next generation. Data from a 2006 Kenosha County *Search Institute* survey documented that only 23% of youth perceive that their community values youth and only 27% believe that youth are given useful roles in the community. These results were among the lowest of all the assets measured and were lower than similar assets measured at a national level. In direct response to these survey results, the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors created the Kenosha County Youth In Governance (YIG) program in 2007. The purpose of the Youth In Governance program is to create a model of youth empowerment within Kenosha County, through direct participation in local government. The overall goal is to bring the youth voice to community issues and concerns while fostering the development of confident, independent, and motivated youth leaders.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Nomination forms for the 2017 – 2018 Youth In Governance program were distributed to all thirteen (13) public and private high schools in Kenosha County. Of these thirteen (13), eleven (11) high schools nominated a total of 260 youth to participate in the program. Of the 260 nominees that were mailed an application and reference form, 39 completed applications, and 24 were granted interviews. Of the 24 interviewed, the names of 14 individuals were forwarded to Kenosha County Board Chairwoman Breunig for official appointment to a Kenosha County Board Committee. Please see TABLE A for specific nomination and selection statistics.

Name of High School	Number of Nominations	Number of Applications	Invited to Interview	Selected as YIG Participant
Bradford	8	0	0	0
Catholic Central	3	2	1	0
Christian Life	1	1	1	1
Harborside Academy	3	2	1	1
Indian Trail Academy	101	11	3	2
Kenosha Military Academy	0	0	0	0
Lakeview Technology	2	1	1	1
Reuther	4	0	0	0
St. Joseph Catholic	11	5	3	3
Shoreland Lutheran	0	0	0	0
Tremper	50	8	4	2
Westosha Central	60	9	6	4
Wilmot	1	0	0	0
Nominated by Others	17	0	0	0
TOTAL	260	39	20	14

TABLE A



Jeremy Jin
Finance & Administration



Emma Heller-Cavener
Finance & Administration



Megan Setter
Human Services



Na'Kia Hughes
Human Services



Jamal Hanson
Joint Services



Janaki Rawal
Joint Services



Morgan Kolimaga
Judiciary & Law



Anna Delisi
Judiciary & Law



Isabella Ricker
Legislative



Aubriana Maedke
Legislative



Jonathan Filiatreault
PDEEC



Julia Arturi
PDEEC



Alexander Dawson
Public Works & Facilities



Aiden Moore
Public Works & Facilities

Kenosha County Youth In Governance 2017 – 2018

EVALUATION AND IMPACT

Near the end of their term, all Youth In Governance members were given the opportunity to complete a retrospective evaluation. The results below, which probed for changes in the Civic Engagement and Leadership Skills of the youth, are based on a five point Likert scale, which ranged from strongly disagree to strongly agree. Quantitative information about civic engagement and leadership skill development are highlighted in TABLE B and TABLE C. Qualitative information is also shared through direct quotes from youth in response to three specific questions.

N = 12 of 14	# of Youth Reporting No Change	# of Youth Reporting 1 Unit of Change	# of Youth Reporting 2 or > Units of Change
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT			
I am knowledgeable about Kenosha County Government	2	2	8
I am aware of local issues that affect Kenosha County	1	2	9
My opinion can make a difference in the community	2	3	7
I have a useful role in the community	1	7	4
I feel a strong connection to Kenosha County	4	4	4
I am interested in politics	6	5	1

TABLE B

N = 12 of 14	# of Youth Reporting No Change	# of Youth Reporting 1 Unit of Change	# of Youth Reporting 2 or > Units of Change
LEADERSHIP SKILLS			
I can participate in group discussions with adults	4	7	1
I can share new ideas with others	4	7	1
I can speak confidently before a group of adults	6	5	1
I can see issues from multiple perspectives	7	4	1
I can talk knowledgeably with others about local issues	3	5	4
I can be a resource to people in Kenosha County	2	6	4

TABLE C

QUESTION #1

One goal of the Kenosha County Youth In Governance program is to create an environment that is conducive to the positive development of youth voice and youth engagement. Do you feel the YIG program accomplished this goal? Why?

“Yes, I do, because I am now ready to speak out and involve myself within Kenosha County. I feel as if my opinions matter and that adults may want to listen to them.”

“Yes, YIG has accomplished this goal. Besides going to meetings I've been active voice in my community. Because of YIG I've been empowered to speak about law enforcement and their inequalities in treatment of minorities. I've only been able to accomplish such a task because of my abilities to network with YIG and the Coalition for Dismantling Racism, an organization shown to me by my mentor Mrs. Tunkieicz.”

“Yes, because through this program my committee has been through various important discussions and has helped me create and brainstorm multiple ideas and points of views.”



QUESTION #2

Another goal of the Kenosha County Youth In Governance program is that the program would provide youth with skills, knowledge, and experiences to prepare them for future leadership opportunities. Do you feel the YIG program accomplished this goal? Why?

“Yes, YIG pushes kids to step out of their comfort zones and engage in debates with adults. This teaches us how to agree/disagree respectfully and state our point of view.”

“I do feel that the YIG program provided me with skills, knowledge, and experience to prepare me for leadership positions. I feel more confident in my ability to lead the clubs I am involved in at my school.”

“I feel I have been prepared for future leadership opportunities because I've been able to network so strongly with local governmental officials and people in law enforcement.”



QUESTION #3

What has been the most important thing you have gained from participation in the Kenosha County Youth In Governance program?

“The most important things I gained from the YIG program was a deeper understanding of county government and experience in the governing process.”

“My committee involves financial & administration issues and that has helped me to identify issues from small details from multiple stand-point. So I have increased greatly my problem-solving and identifying.”

“I have gained the confidence to speak what I think and reduce my fear of interacting with adults. This has helped me in places like interviews making me successful.”

“I have become more outspoken, I am not afraid of others disagreeing with me.”

“I have met so many people, and have gotten to connect with them. The most important thing I have learned is all the services that our county provides and the work that goes into providing them.”



Kenosha County Youth In Governance is a program of Kenosha County UW-Extension in partnership with the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors. University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating. An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and American with Disabilities (ADA) requirements.