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## **Madeira Young Women Learn to Take Charge**

A group of Madeira High School (MHS) students has a new set of skills to help build self-awareness after attending the Young Women LEAD Conference with other high school girls from the Northern Kentucky, Greater Cincinnati and Indiana areas. The conference addressed how to stand up to peer pressure and media stereotypes, say no to risky behavior and abusive relationships, and put an end to aggression such as bullying.

Young Women LEAD (Leadership, Education, and Development) is a conference designed to help attendees embrace their strengths. It was presented by local female business and community leaders who have experienced the same issues the high schoolers are currently facing, which in turn gives them a chance to practice their own leadership skills by helping to support future leaders.

MHS faculty nominated female students to attend the conference, which was held at Northern Kentucky University. MHS counselor Kim Homer commented on the school's first year attending, "We were fortunate to take advantage of this opportunity," she stated. "It gave our females a chance to learn to take charge of who they are - and that they're OK just as they are."

The girls who participated listened to speakers, attended group breakout sessions and met students from other districts. Speaker Kim Lewis focused on overcoming challenges and finding joy to live life with confidence. Other sessions encouraged the young women to be philanthropic, become their own leaders, stay focused, fit, prepared, unapologetic, strong, and safe.

The attendees gave the experience high marks." The Women's Leadership Conference empowered me to know my worth and my own strength," stated Madeira senior Jenny Whitt. "All of the girls there were super sweet and some had incredible stories that have definitely touched my views on the world." Freshman Sophia Hyer added, "I am a freshman at Madeira so I have never been to a conference before. I loved the Young Women's Lead Conference because I learned about philanthropy and how to organize my future. I especially enjoyed the end of the conference because we got the opportunity to speak about women's power."

Madeira students who attended the conference were Lucy Adams, Lucy Bruemmer, Jamie Brandewie, Jaylon Eastin, Maria Grolmes, Heidi Hartz, Sophia Hyer, Samantha McKee, Grace Rindels, Brianna Seibert, Grayson Slusher, Kaitlynn Teng, Mariah Webb, Jenny Whitt, and Katie Zack.



*Young Women LEAD Conference attendees pictured above l to r: Samantha McKee and Jenny Whitt.*