Welcome to Building Tomorrow’s Leaders!

Building Tomorrow’s Leaders is a comprehensive civic engagement program geared to high school students, focusing on grades nine and 10. The program aims to strengthen leadership skills, build confidence in young adults, empower students for involvement and create a sense of community.

The program was developed in partnership with the NDSU Extension and North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.

NDSU Extension leadership and civic education programs build public value by strengthening the skills, confidence and willingness of individuals to lead, engage others in public decisions and increase team performance. Stronger leaders and teams mean reaching goals and objectives more efficiently and effectively in schools, communities and the workplace.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), positive youth development is an intentional approach to promote positive outcomes for young people through family and community youth engagement for the benefit of society. Positive youth development focuses on building relationships while delivering learning content, ultimately giving youth the skillsets they need to navigate socially: respect, teamwork and self-care.

NIFA prioritizes positive youth development programming to ensure the future employability of America’s children and support our nation’s economy. (Source: https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/Fostering-Positive-Youth-Development.pdf)

Participating high school students will complete all eight units of Building Tomorrow’s Leaders. Educators will have the ability to choose which activities they want to use within each module.

Schools also have the flexibility to implement the Building Tomorrow’s Leaders program in a format that best meets the needs of the school district. Suggested formats include regular class periods, two-hour time slots, and half days or full-day workshops. The program can be customized to meet the needs of a given school district. See the Building Tomorrow’s Leaders – Civic Engagement in North Dakota flyer for module information.

The Building Tomorrow’s Leaders program aligns well with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction’s content standards in career and technical education, English language arts/literacy, library and technology, and social studies. Each module includes a document with the specific details on alignment.

School districts are encouraged to have an administrator, one to two committed teachers (may be a civics teacher, counselor, FACS teacher, FBLA adviser, FFA adviser or other interested teacher), student leaders and an NDSU Extension Service agent on the planning and implementation team.

Real Colors needs to be presented by a certified trainer. Most Extension agents are certified. If your local agent is not, he or she will work with you to contact an Extension agent in a nearby county. NDSU Extension county offices can be found at www.ag.ndsu.edu/extension/county-extension-offices.

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