

Thursday, August 18, 2005

The Augusta Chronicle

Program helps students to emerge as leaders

By Greg Gelpi | Staff Writer

They might appear to be high school students, but ask them and they'll tell you they're tomorrow's dentists, lawyers, professional athletes and even rap mogul P. Diddy.

Youth Leadership Richmond County held its orientation Thursday to equip its 24 participants to become those leaders.



Laney High School students Seth Williams (from left) La'Keva Dunn and Gabrielle Moffitt chat during the orientation for the Youth Leadership Richmond County program Thursday.

"Most can follow, but very few can lead," Dr. Carol Rountree, Richmond County schools director of guidance, testing and research, told the high school juniors.

The students said they're up to the challenge and accept their roles as future leaders.

Gabrielle Moffitt, 16, of Lucy C. Laney High School, likens her leadership abilities to those of Malcolm X or Martin Luther King Jr.

"I like to lead people to where they need to be, to where they should be," Gabrielle said.

Admittedly, she might not lead a civil rights movement, but La'Keva Dunn said she has her own way of changing the world - through laughter.

There was a real push for youth leadership programs in the 1990s, but funding problems caused the program to be discontinued in 1997, director Steven Kendrick said. The program is the youth version of Leadership Augusta and is for Richmond County juniors who have demonstrated leadership abilities.

The students will participate in a number of activities during the program, including a ropes course, history day, government and media day, education day, and community service day.

The other members are Seth Williams, Mia-Talia Lowe, Lanisha Blount, Heather Clark, Remer Brinson, Taisiana Garcia, Veronica Walker, Robert Long, Dan-Talisha Deans, Teddy Taylor, Megan Battle, Ana Serrano, Myrisha Sanders, Alex Walker, D'Marcus McMillan, Dillon Smith, Jacob Garn, Elizabeth Kersey, Vinnie Mahoney, Brittany Andrews, Courtney Owens and Amanda Olson.

For more information on the program or how to apply for next year's class, visit www.ylrc.org.