

In The News....

Teacher aims to ensure success of young girls

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Essie Childers asked a dozen or so Bryan and College Station leaders Tuesday what they remembered from middle school. They almost unanimously declared that it was "awkward," but several shared the positives.

"I had coaches that encouraged me and built me up where I hadn't had that before," said Jennifer Rhea, A&M Consolidated Middle School assistant principal.

Alsie Bond, the city of Bryan's community development manager, said she remembered playing jacks at recess and how important the teachers were in her life and the encouragement they provided.

"I remember each one of my teachers and their names," Bond said.

Childers, president of Mvita Consultants and a Blinn College instructor, said she wants to encourage positive experiences like those to help middle school girls succeed in life and develop a college-bound mentality.

With that goal in mind, Childers plans to stage a Young Ladies Success Seminar in February for at-risk seventh and eighth-grade girls from Bryan and College Station. She hopes to work with the school districts to have teachers select students who would be good fits for the program.

Childers held the luncheon meeting at College Station City Hall to share information about the program and gather ideas about how it could be successful. Middle school girls, she said, need support before a series of negative school experiences or peer pressures leads them toward academic failure.

She envisions the conference as a tool to motivate adolescent girls to visualize success beyond middle school. The daylong conference would contain mini-sessions for young women addressing personal responsibility, self-concept, visualizing success, goal setting, time management and career awareness.

"You can help plant the thought, and, you know what, sometimes it only takes a thought: that middle school success matters and college is possible," she said.

Irma Cauley, Brazos County commissioner for Precinct 4, said she raised three daughters and understands the importance of taking the time to build a young woman's self-esteem when they might not receive that encouragement from their peers or family.

"We're not going to change the world in a day or week or year, but I think if we could just be that person that watches for that girl making the effort, and sometimes, just putting your hand on her shoulder and letting her know that you're with her, because she may not get it from her parents," she said.

Carol Barrett, College Station school board member, said it's important to find a variety of women in the community who could share various personal experiences.

"I think it's very important you find people who they can relate to business wise, who can say, 'You know what, I dealt with what you're dealing with,'" she said.



Young Ladies Success Seminar – Posted Monday Jan142013



The Young Ladies Success Seminar, a seminar designed to expose middle school-age girls to collegiate and career opportunities, will be held at Blinn College at the Bryan Campus Student Center on February 9th. The seminar will consist of motivational sessions, career information and financial education for middle school girls in grades 6, 7, and 8.

Conference Director Essie Childers started the event to provide an opportunity for young ladies to see beyond middle school and to create a college-bound culture and mentality. Through the Young Ladies Success Seminar, middle school girls will have the opportunity to meet and hear the stories of successful women in their community and to understand why math, science and studying are important to their education and future.

Childers hopes this program will instill in all girls that the middle school years are important. In addition to meeting and hearing the stories of successful career women, participants will attend motivational sessions on personal responsibility and self-esteem, as well as receive tips on how to best prepare in middle school for success in high school and college.

Registration is currently underway and limited to the first 300 participants; information can be found online at <http://www.yl-success.com/>.

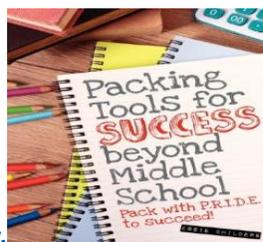
The program is still seeking donations and door prizes. If you or someone you know, would like to help, you can contact Project Unity-YLSS in person: 4001 E 29th Street, #150, Bryan, TX 77805, online: www.projectunitytx.org, or by telephone: 979-595-2900. Monetary donations may be made payable to Project Unity-YLSS and mailed to the address above.



On February 9th, Essie Childers, working with Project Unity and Phi Theta Kappa held the first ever student success seminar in the Brazos Valley area. Ms. Childers is the founder and director of *Young Ladies Success*. The Young Ladies Success Seminar, a seminar designed to expose middle school-age girls to collegiate and career opportunities, was held at Blinn College at the Bryan Campus Student Center. The seminar consisted of motivational sessions, career information and financial education for middle school girls in grades 6, 7, and 8.

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Childers hope this program will instill in all girls that the middle school years are important. In addition to meeting and hearing the stories of successful career women, participants will attend motivational sessions on personal responsibility and self-esteem, as well as receive tips on how to best prepare in middle school for success in high school and college. Close 40 young ladies attended the conference and three students received a check for their winning essays. **Ms. Childers' also unveiled her first book, [Packing Tools for SUCCESS beyond Middle School](#)**



[All participants received a free copy.](#)

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http://www.insitebrazosvalley.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/YLSS_Group_2014.jpg

Success Summit: Empowering Young Ladies

By Kylie Kinnett

Do you remember the awkwardness and feelings at age 13 or 14? The confusing times of middle and high school, as well as the uncomfortable growing pains, and stress of career or college planning? The local Young Ladies Success Summit, created by Conference Director Essie Childers, helps to challenge those feelings and instead “expose young ladies in middle school and high school to collegiate and career opportunities, to boost their self-esteem, and empower self-responsibility to create success in school and in life.”

Held on February 6 at Blinn College in Bryan, the Young Ladies Success Summit will provide girls an opportunity to gain information and confidence to pursue goals and create ambitions that they might not be exposed to otherwise. The summit is open to girls in grades six through 12, an age which relays a time of change and new discoveries. It is not only important but also essential that a seed of encouragement and drive is planted in their minds at this age, says Childers. “Realizing your self-worth and loving yourself first are the stepping stones in success,” she says.

Preparing for college should start as early as middle school, says Childers. The Young Ladies Success Summit will consist of sessions discussing a variety of topics including: financial literacy, self-esteem, Facebook etiquette, bullying, and other engaging topics. This year’s keynote speaker will be Donna Spann, CEO of Capstone College Advising from Tyler. Additionally, the summit will feature an essay contest in which monetary awards will be presented. Young ladies will have an opportunity to respond to the question, “How do you use social media to show others how special you really are?” Essay rules and guidelines are available online at yl-success.com. Door prizes and essay winners will be announced at the end of the conference. The conference will also present a session for parents to learn more about networking and preparing their child for college.

Childers recognized the need for the Young Ladies Success Summit and, with the help of family and friends, hosted the inaugural event in February 2011. Childers, knowing that a lot of her success has been thanks to wonderful female mentors in her own life, believed she had a duty to give back to young girls in her community in a similar way.

“Young women are capable of making strong decisions and have the ability to exercise creative and critical thinking,” says Childers. The opportunities presented at Young Ladies Success Summit empower young girls

and demonstrates what can be achieved with a mindset that leads to success. “We all have a hidden treasure,” says Childers. The Young Ladies Success Summit is designed to not create that treasure for these girls, but simply help them find it.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

February 6 marks the fourth year of the summit that will be held at Blinn College in Bryan, beginning with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Registration forms for both parents and students can be found at yl-success.com and the registration deadline is February 1.

- See more at: <http://www.insitebrazosvalley.com/lifestyle/children-families/success-summit-empowering-young-ladies/#sthash.UD1Mmy56.dpuf>

Young ladies get tips on college, leadership at success seminar



Aimee Breaux / The Eagle

Young Ladies Success Seminar attendees gather for a photo outside the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.



Posted: Sunday, February 12, 2017 12:00 am
By Aimee Breaux aimee.breaux@theeagle.com | 0 comments

When Haily Brown entered high school, everything suddenly became about preparing for college. "It's really mind-blowing and terrifying at first," Brown said. "Because adults are telling me you need to know what you are doing in the next four years and that those four years will affect you for the rest of your life."

With this on her mind and a "why not?" attitude, the A&M Consolidated High School sophomore was one of about 40 girls in the area to attend the Fifth Annual Young Ladies Success Seminar on Saturday in hopes of learning more about preparing for post-high school life and becoming a leader.

The event, held at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, was open to area girls in grades 6-12. After a keynote speech from Jamilla Thomas, an assistant principal in the Grand Prairie Independent School District, the students broke into groups. Middle schoolers discussed bullying and leadership, while high schoolers sat in on a presentation about creating a portfolio.

Event organizer Essie Childers, a humanities professor at Blinn College, said she started the seminar as a way to give back to the community and pay homage to all the women who have helped her over the years.

"The goal is to empower students to create a college-going culture or to concentrate and focus on a career that will lead them on a pathway to success," said Childers, who also has written a book on the topic titled *Packing Tools for Success Beyond Middle School*.

Amaka Okonkwo, who won first place in the high school essay contest associated with the seminar, has attended the event every year since it began.

"It's a really nice way for me to learn about leadership and success and all the things I need to do in high school to achieve my goal of going to college and having a successful career," she said. "I definitely want to go to A&M -- Aggies all the way."

Her friend Myra Dharani has attended the event for the past four years. For her it's a chance to meet new people and learn new skills. While Dharani said her favorite part of the seminar this year was the section devoted to creating a résumé, Okonkwo said she liked the keynote speaker's metaphor relating leadership to planting a plant.

"Being a leader means you have to kind of dig into the ground, and you kind of have to unearth the ground, which might be uncomfortable at first," Okonkwo said. "But you have to work with what you have."

For insight on the college application process and basic scholarship advice, some parents attended a presentation put on by an adviser and students affiliated with the Texas A&M Memorial Student Center.

Monique Cyprien said the parent portion of the seminar last year was so informational she decided to come back this year with her A&M Consolidated ninth-grader daughter, Karter Cyprien.

"It was so much good information, I wanted to make sure I came back again," she said. The seminar was only a few hours long, but Childers hopes it serves as a sort of catalyst for the attending girls and their network of support.

"I'm planting the seed," she said. "It's up to other women in their lives to water it."