

# **"Just us G.A.L.S. Conference"-Girls Achieving Leadership & Success**

## **May 11, 2007**

**Sponsored by: Gwen Keyes Fleming, DeKalb County District Attorney**

**BACKGROUND:** Attendees were selected from an essay contest open to all DeKalb Co. Middle Schools. The essays were entitled "How I am in Control of My Destiny." Six students from each school, two from each grade, were selected and invited to attend the conference. Included in the conference were workshops on leadership, goal setting, building healthy relationships, and combating peer pressure, such as drugs, gangs, and violence. The overall goal, according to District Attorney Fleming, is to "give the young women the tools and mentoring they need to keep them out of the criminal justice system."

**LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP: Facilitated by Susan B. Hitchcock, VP Client Services & Executive Director, Women's Initiatives, Turknett Leadership Group**

Following the workshop, participants were asked to write down one thing that they had learned and would take away from this particular experience. Below are their responses in their own words:.

**My take-aways:**

- The 7 C's of Success – Competence, Commitment, Confidence, Connections, Courage, Credibility, & Character
- "There is a fire in our hearts for something. It's our objective to find that passion and keep it lit." Quote from Mary Lou Retton, Olympic Gymnast
- Knowledge & skills = success
- If you don't have character (integrity), then all other qualities are useless.
- Self-determination.
- I can be a leader & a hero.
- Believe in yourself & that and leadership will get you far.
- Within leadership is teamwork.
- Be a leader and complete all goals because I can.
- Today I learned to have courage in what I do.
- Having courage & character – don't let anyone stand in your way.
- Ability to know I'm in charge of how my life can be.
- To have courage in myself & in my job.
- Girls can achieve anything.
- Competence.
- Everything about how to be a wonderful leader.
- I can do anything I put my mind to and nothing is out of my reach.
- Show your character and you are a leader.
- I will always remember and believe the 7 C's of Success.
- What it takes to be a leader.
- Independence.
- Learned that to have commitment you must have determination.
- Confidence.
- Leadership / 7 C's / how women can be empowering.
- Nobody can tell you what you want to achieve in your life because only you know.

- Foundation for leadership is integrity.
- "You have as much control as you think you do." Quote: anonymous source.
- Being a leader is having courage and to do what is right.
- Learned the 7 C's and how much girls (females) have provided by being leaders.
- Each of can use the 7 C's to be successful.
- Leaders are strong & don't give up.
- Today I learned the key aspects of being a leader. I'll take these things with me and use them wisely.
- Leaders don't have to be recognized. You can be a leader now, as you are.
- Don't be a follower, be a leader.
- My goal is to have integrity and character.
- Accountability. Choose to tell the truth and be helpful. Knowing that people can trust you by keeping your word.
- Be able to control where you end up. Girls can do anything.
- Learned that you should keep going after your dreams & exceed your goals.
- It's my life to control & I should take control of that ability.
- Commitment – Help save Darfur.
- Carrying out the ability to know I can do anything.
- Try your hardest to leave a legacy, so that when you die, other girls and people will remember you.
- Leadership means the 7 C's. I'm a leader.
- I'm going to take more risks.
- Women will change the world. I will change the world.
- It's up to you to be in control of your destiny.
- How using your connections (relationships) will help you develop leadership.
- Integrity is incredibly important. Keep holding on.
- "When you change the way you look at things, things change the way they look." Quote: anonymous.
- I can control my own destiny.
- Everyone should be leaders and grow up to inspire someone else.
- Courage and commitment.
- If you believe you will succeed you will.
- Smart, strong, determined, courageous, confident.
- Believe in yourself and things will happen.
- Leaders are winners.
- Not to be scared to speak my mind and women are as much leaders as men.
- Responsibilities of being a leader.
- Leaders make a difference and aren't afraid to stand-up for what they believe/
- Do what you believe in and never be afraid.
- Think positive and you'll have positive results.
- Confidence, keeps me going.
- To be my own leader and have respect and confidence in myself.