



Overview of Student Leadership Services, Inc.

Student Leadership Services, Inc. (SLS) trains and coordinates statewide youth-led prevention in Michigan. Programs are based on the “Principles of Effectiveness” defined by the Department of Education, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), “Science-Based Prevention” and years of research. The programs of SLS focus on strategies that are led by youth. The SLS training programs are structured to prepare youth to influence their peers to make positive choices and avoid self-defeating behaviors.

SLS has a twenty-six year history of providing after-school programs to middle schools and high schools. Students Taking A New Direction (STAND) is the SLS middle school program that is proven effective to delay and deter onset of tobacco, alcohol and other drug use for 11-14 year old youth. More than 75 groups are planning leadership training, community service projects, parent education activities, drug-free social activities and safety campaigns – all incorporating youth in planning and leadership opportunities, making the most of prevention strategies.

“Students Leading Students” Michigan high school groups are SLS trained and 300 groups benefit from SLS conferences, rallies, campaigns, trainings, grants, and materials. Positive peer influence and behavior change related to self-defeating behaviors of youth by using proven effective strategies is a focus of SLS high school groups.

In 2001, SLS collaborated with National Student Safety Program, National Safety Council, United Native American Tribal Youth, National Teen Institute and other organizations, in a dynamic process of exchanging organizational strengths, missions and strategies to advance youth-led prevention towards more effective programming. SLS and high school chapters from Bishop Foley in Madison Heights, Hemlock in Saginaw, and Everett in Lansing, provided the “Leadership Training” track at the first Student-Led Collaborative Conference in Hawaii. SLS hosted the second student-led Collaborative Conference in Detroit in 2002, and developed collaborative relationships with several youth oriented Michigan groups, including the Michigan Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking (MCRUD), Ulster Project, Arab-American Chaldean Council, Smoke-Free Class of 2003, and Gamma Phi Delta Sorority Teens. Students from 16 states and organizations learned prevention strategies from each other at the 2002 Collaborative Conference.

The goals of SLS are to engage youth with passion, lead youth with a mission, and train youth with skills. SLS programs are important for any group interested in youth-led prevention initiatives.

Services that SLS provides satisfy “No Child Left Behind”, Safe and Drug-Free School requirements, Service-Based Learning outcomes, and the Developmental Asset approach. SLS incorporates evaluation, youth development, prevention research, and proven effective, evidence-based strategies to national movements.

In addition to STAND and Students Leading Students collaborative projects, SLS and the State Student Advisory Board host Statewide Youth-Led Conferences, Leadership Skills Trainings, Student-Led Seminars, Summer Leadership Institutes, Camps, advisor training and drug-free celebrations for Michigan students.

Alumni volunteers support SLS with fundraising, events, training, chapter consulting, web site management, and technical challenges.