








WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION 4-H TEEN CONFERENCE 2013






91.8

Percentage of participants who made gains from pre- to post-program

Areas of improvement:

-  Have control over my personal goals/future
-  Work/play with people who are different from me
-  Clearly state my thoughts, feelings, and ideas to others
-  Plan how to use my financial resources
-  Choosing among several alternatives

Areas of highest gain:

-  Identify important life skills necessary for my future
-  Understand what I need to do to plan for my future
-  Understand different educational options for after high school
-  Think through skills I need to get a job
-  Explore a career new to me

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

College, Career, Work? *Teens Focus on Life after High School*

By Betsy Fradd, WSU Extension

Some come from bustling cities. Others from tiny towns. But all the students at this year's Washington State 4H Teen Conference wondered the same question: *What does life hold after high school?*

Over 330 teens from around the state participated in workshops, heard dynamic speakers, and attended a college and career fair to help find answers and begin developing a plan during the June 23–25 event in Pullman.

"I want to be an elementary education teacher, so I know I'm going to college," said 16-year-old Courtney Hoyle, who attended seminars on cheese making and wheat research. "Teen Conference has opened me up," said the Colton resident. "I've learned how to talk more with other people. [The conference is] so good for communication."

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TEEN COMMENTS

I learned:

- How to better plan for my future. I now know what to do to apply for colleges and get accepted.
- Of many new careers from attending this conference.
- How to reach my goals to becoming more comfortable around other people.
- To never settle for lower than your top shelf. Fall forward towards your dream.
- That even though no one in my family went to a university, I can.
- Skills employers are looking for when hiring someone new
- About different avenues and resources for my future
- That I can picture and dream for my future in order to reach new things

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Over 50 workshops offered teens a variety of classes including physics, budgeting, self-defense, animal sciences, and environmental stewardship. Campus tours, dorms, and interacting with university instructors provided students with a preview of the college experience as they explored their post-high school paths.

Erich Scriven, 17, from Moses Lake plans on entering the nursing field. "I got to talk with an EMP about his profession and it helped me figure out what I want in a job," said Scriven, who also took a workshop on how to pay for college and not go into debt.

Learning how to communicate with others, developing good decision-making skills, and respecting other's backgrounds is integrated throughout the event.

"We want teens to picture themselves succeeding in whatever they pursue," said Jan Klein, WSU 4-H Adolescent Teen Specialist. "We are a springboard providing resources and opportunities for them to live an intentional, fulfilling life."

"Teen Conference is empowering," said Courtney. "It's amazing to hear other people's stories and perspective. It makes me want to get out in the world and try new things."

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EXTENSION

4-H Youth Development Program 

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