

Outstanding Education Foundation Program

Montclair Foundation for Educational Excellence

Program: Life After High School: Surviving & Thriving in the 21st Century

This award is given to the an outstanding program that is funded or run by the education foundation in its district and demonstrates significant impact on students. The award was presented to the Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence (MFEE) in recognition of its *Life After High School: Surviving and Thriving in the 21st Century*. This program is a mini conference created to give teens and their caregivers some tools and inspiration for living post High School life with the confidence to try new thing, take risks and build support networks. The program goal is to provide something more holistic that a career fair. The MFEE aimed to support teens social and emotional readiness to launch into adulthood and validate the broad skills that many young people possess but may not be sufficiently valued in school. The MFEE partnered with several other non-profit organizations serving teens in order to identify leaders to shape the event.

The MFEE demonstrated the direct impact a foundation can have on students, and the potential for foundations to offer programs that go beyond the school house door to meet a specific need in their district.



This program was developed during the 2016-17 school year and took place this past January. It was launched to pass on some key "wisdom nuggets" to the students through an inspirational, engaging gathering that would also connect them to local adults. As one of the program committee members states "this was not a conference about college or career. It is a conference about life."

The conference created a powerful collaborative spirit between NFEF and a diverse group of partners. Another example of education foundation engaging community partners for the betterment of the students. To ensure that all students would have access to the conference MFEF provided transportation, food and did not charge a fee for the event. This removed any obstacles for participation. An astounding 250 8th thru 12th grade students and caregivers attended.



Workshop titles included:

- Leaving the Bubble – The Emotional Transition out of High School
- Start it Yourself – An Insiders Guide to Entrepreneurship
- Get the Job/Keep the Job
- Write the Contract for Your Life – What's Standing in the way of you goals?



Workshop presenter, Amy Tingle



MHS senior attendee and MFEF Executive Director Masiel Rodriguez-Vara



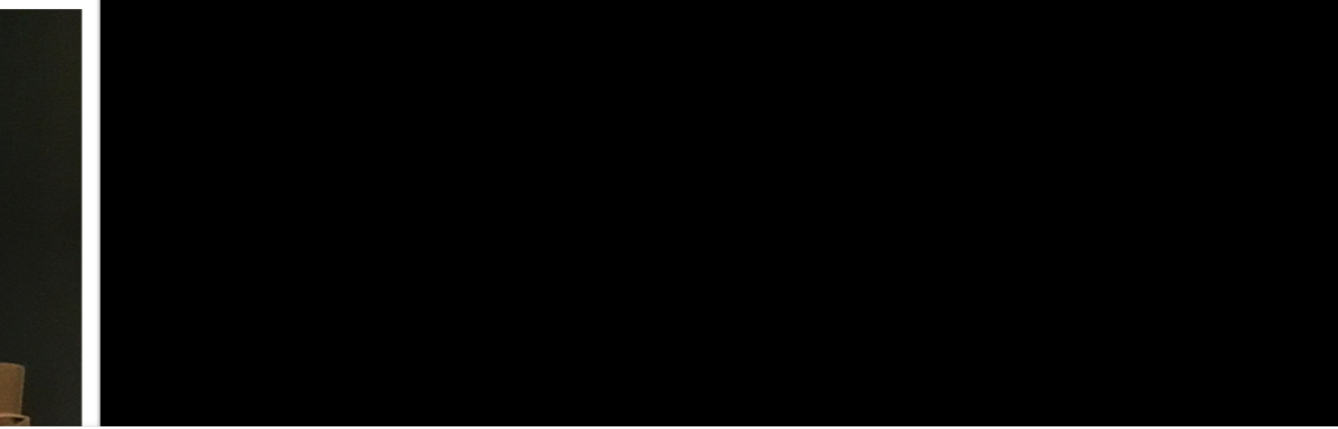


**Montclair High School
alumni and rapper
Topaz Jones (left)
performed, presented,
and gave time to fans**





Parent Panel



Teen attendees

New Jersey Education Foundation Partnership



congratulates



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