

STOP THE VIOLENCE: STUDENTS TAKING ON PREVENTION

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Session Overview

Abstract

STOP is unique as a student-created, student-led violence prevention effort. Members from across the nation have completed trainings and developed projects in their schools and communities to help ensure that they are creating safe and healthy environments. Four members of the STOP network have identified a need and developed an innovative project using one of the toolkit chapters. They will share the projects they have designed including their strategies for preventing violence in their communities.

Summary

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a not-for-profit national career and technical student organization for youth in family and consumer sciences education. STOP the Violence, which stands for Students Taking on Prevention, is a peer education program offered through FCCLA. The goals of STOP include: empowering students with skills, and resources to make their schools safer by involving youth in efforts to prevent violence, and increasing awareness of and involvement in strategies – through education – that reduce violence and reduce the potential for violence in schools.

STOP uses two main components to achieve these goals: (1) the STOP the Violence toolkit and (2) a nationwide network of trained students who are eager to reduce violence in schools. Often, students are more inclined to listen to the views of peers over those of adults. That's why peers are the force behind the program – youth are the voice and youth have the ability to make a difference. STOP network members complete training at the annual National Leadership Meeting in July and then use the toolkit to facilitate trainings at the state and local levels. The toolkit, developed with help from the Hamilton Fish Institute, contains training scripts, activities, and lesson plans for teachers on a variety of violence prevention related topics.

What was done? Network team members were selected, trained, and charged with designing a violence prevention and/or awareness community project.

Why was it done? To empower students with skills and resources to make their schools safer and to use education to increase awareness and to reduce the potential for violence in schools.

Who did it? Projects were created by FCCLA STOP the Violence network team members and their peers.

Who/what was supposed to benefit? Schools and communities benefit from the knowledge and resources available through the toolkit and the expertise of the students.

What were the anticipated results? The anticipated result is reduced potential for violence in schools receiving training.

What will happen next? Chapters will use the STOP toolkit as a teaching resource. Network team members will provide state trainings on anti-violence awareness and prevention strategies.