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OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools, Thriving Students

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## Student Directors' Report

Carmen Jimenez

March 27, 2013

On March 19th 2013 All City Council (ACC) organized and held the 16th annual Oakland Middle School Peer Resource and Ethnic Studies Conference at UC Berkeley. Over 300 students from Westlake, Bret Harte, Roosevelt, Montera, Alliance, Roots, Melrose, Elmhurst, Frick, WOMS, UPA, Madison, Claremont, Edna Brewer, United For Success and CCPA attended. Fremont High School's Poly Club opened up the conference with a dance performance. Key note speaker Richard Santana spoke about his struggles and accomplishments. He encouraged and inspired the youth to not give up and keep on striving for success.

After the presentations the students went to workshops that dealt with many things from violence to A-G requirements. Workshops were being run by La Clinica de la Raza's Roosevelt Health Center-Peer Health Educators, AYPAL, BAY-Peace, Youth Together, Youth ALIVE's Teens On Target, La Clinica de la Raza's Havenscourt Health Center's Peer Health Educators, Clarity Creative Institute, Asian Health Services Youth Program, Coliseum College Prep Academy's Restorative Justice Student Leadership, OUSD's Health Education Department, Oakland KidsFirst! PASS 2, La Clinica de la Raza's Urban Promise Academy Youth Wellness Council, Lifelong Medical Care's West Oakland Middle School Peer Wellness Champions, Peer Restorative Justice Program at Bret Harte Middle School, James Madison Peer Leadership Team, Edna Brewer Peer Restorative Justice Team, and Alliance Academy Peer Mediation Program. This year we were able to have 18 out of the 21 workshops be led by peer leaders, middle school students, high school students, and alumni. At the end of the conference students who demonstrated being active leaders at their schools and community were awarded the A.C.T.I.O.N. Award. This encouraged other fellow students to get more involved in being leaders. Overall the whole conference was a success and a day filled with learning and action.

Here is what some students had to say: "It was educative" "It was informative", "It was fun", "Good advice", "They (Fremont Poly Club) had a good performance representing their culture", "Meeting new people", "The work and explanation", "Mr. Chocolate was inspiring", "The speaker (Richard Santana - Mr. Chocolate) was very motivational".