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4th Annual Solano Youth Resiliency Summit Inspires Future Leaders

Solano County, CA – Multiple community groups across Solano County joined Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) in hosting the fourth annual [Solano Youth Resiliency Summit](#) held today at Sunrise Event Center in Vacaville. Club Stride, Drug Safe Solano, Fighting Back Partnership, Nature of Sound, Friday Night Live Partnership, Solano Youth Coalition, Touro University, Vallejo Project and VIBE Solano partnered with SCOE to offer a free summit for middle and high school students living or attending school in Solano County.

Dixon resident and Solano Youth Coalition member, Anthony Diaz kicked off the day. He introduced Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson who remarked, “Successful leadership involves knowledge, well-rounded and diverse perspectives that inform effective decision making. SCOE’s youth summit offers young people a wide variety of skill and knowledge-building workshops and embodies SCOE’s guiding principles of leadership, collaboration and support as we endeavor to provide opportunities for youth across the county to make positive change in our communities.”

Representing all school districts in Solano County, 65 youth braved the winter weather to attend the summit and connect with other teenagers. The day offered inspiring keynote speakers and twelve different workshops, over half student led. Some topics included mental health and wellness; alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention; preparing for life after high school; and leadership skills. The event provided attendees an opportunity to strengthen their resiliency through self-reflection, mindfulness, empathy and healthy coping strategies. Participants also heard about ways to promote creative positive change.

Alphabet Rockers and Ashanti Branch were the keynote speakers. As four-time Grammy nominated artists, Alphabet Rockers, Kaitlin McGaw and Tommy Soulati Shepherd, make music that inspires kids and families to stand up to hate and make positive change. They performed several songs while sharing personal stories of growth, strength and lessons learned. Ashanti Branch, a native of Oakland, founded the Ever Forward Club to provide a support group for African American and Latino youth. He too engaged students with inspiring words focused on the leader within each young person.

SCOE offers Solano County youth ongoing support and leadership opportunities through workshops, clubs, coalitions, and conferences. Students who would like to get involved with SCOE’s [youth development programs](#) can contact program manager Johanna Nowak-Palmer at (707) 646-7608 jnowak@solanocoe.net.

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Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for charter schools and Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 60,500 students. Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent is a state constitutional officer who serves as the chief executive officer of SCOE and as a liaison between local school districts and the state.