



## SLS Fact Sheet

### Organizational Background:

Student Leadership Services, Inc. (SLS) is a non-profit 501(c) 3 founded in Michigan in 1982 to provide youth-led programs based on youth development theories, drug prevention principles and youth leadership practices in an integrated comprehensive approach. SLS applies these strategies to real life situations. SLS established a network of 620 high schools by 1989. Youth-led groups are trained by SLS to develop and deliver peer education, health and safety activities in Michigan schools. SLS trains youth to resist alcohol, chemicals, prescription and other drugs, bullying, and other issues in youth environments. SLS students challenge the norm and are empowered to influence their peers in the complex world of youth today. Youth also practice leadership, team building, communication, resistance and positive peer influence skills through SLS trainings and local chapter activities that involve schools, parents and communities. In 2005, seven SLS programs were evaluated by High/Scope Educational Research Foundation (Ypsilanti, Michigan). SLS scored the best out of 90 Michigan youth programs (4.15 out of 5.0). SLS is funded by grants, donations and corporate sponsorships.

*2014 National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service (NASADAD) National Exemplary Award for Innovative Substance Abuse Prevention Programs, Practices, and Policies.*

*In 2012 and again in 2013, SLS received the Service to Science Award from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for responsiveness to local needs, innovative approach, incorporation of practical experience, commitment to evaluation, and delivering effective programs; nominated by the MI Bureau of Substance Abuse/Department of Community Health and Oakland County Office of Substance Abuse. In 2012, SLS was also awarded the Governor's Traffic Safety Commission Award for Long Term Achievement, distinguishing the 30 years of service for SLS and the State of Michigan school-based member chapters.*

### What We Offer:

The goal of SLS is to create experiences for emergent youth leaders to connect and influence other youth in their efforts to "save their peers." Three SLS staff and 180 professional and active alumni volunteers impact 35,000 Michigan youth annually (more than 1 million youth over 30 years). SLS offers Model Program certification, annual state conferences, camps, assemblies, handbooks, newsletters, web support, individual school consultations, and more than 40 interactive youth and adult trainings. SLS is re-branding Michigan groups, using innovative, evaluated, and proven effective strategies developed by SLS (and SLS youth) for youth. Every SLS youth event, training, workshop, and media opportunity is youth-led.

### Why Advisors and Youth Value SLS:

Why Advisors Value SLS: SAMHSA supports SLS. SLS incorporates outcome based prevention from: Hawkins & Catalano (Social Development Strategy, including risk & protective factors); assets & resiliency skills (Benson-Search Institute 40 Assets; Kretzman and McKnight-ABCD); positive youth development (Karen Pitman; David Weikart Center For Youth Program Quality of High/ Scope Educational Research); differentiated instruction; student focused learning objectives; and proven practices from prevention practitioners. And... youth train youth.

Why Youth Value SLS: It's "youth-led". It's "hands on". It's "interactive". SLS engages youth, offers fun activities & presents opportunities to design and construct leadership experiences for peers & community.

### SLS Programs:

Students Leading Students (SLS-HS Program)

Students Taking A New Direction (STAND-MS Program)

Student Advisory Board (SAB-High School Students Apply to State Board)

### SLS Trainings, Institutes, Workshops, Camps and Conferences:

Accepting & Giving Feedback  
Adolescent Development  
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Education  
Assertiveness  
Asset Building  
Asset Based Community Projects  
Community Awareness  
Conflict Resolution  
Decision Making  
Diversity  
Energizing Your Group

Emerging Leadership  
Fundraising & Grant Writing  
Healthy Choices  
Helping a Hurting Friend  
How to be a Great Advisor  
How To Run Meetings  
Implementing Service-Based Learning  
Leadership Styles  
Listening and Communication  
Marketing Skills  
Mentoring

Parent Workshops  
Peer Mediation  
Peer Resistance Skills  
Peer to Peer Education  
Presentation Skills  
Positive Role Modeling  
Public Relations Skills  
Safety Awareness  
STAND To Be Active  
Team Building  
Violence Prevention/Bullying