

37th Annual SLS High School Leadership Conference

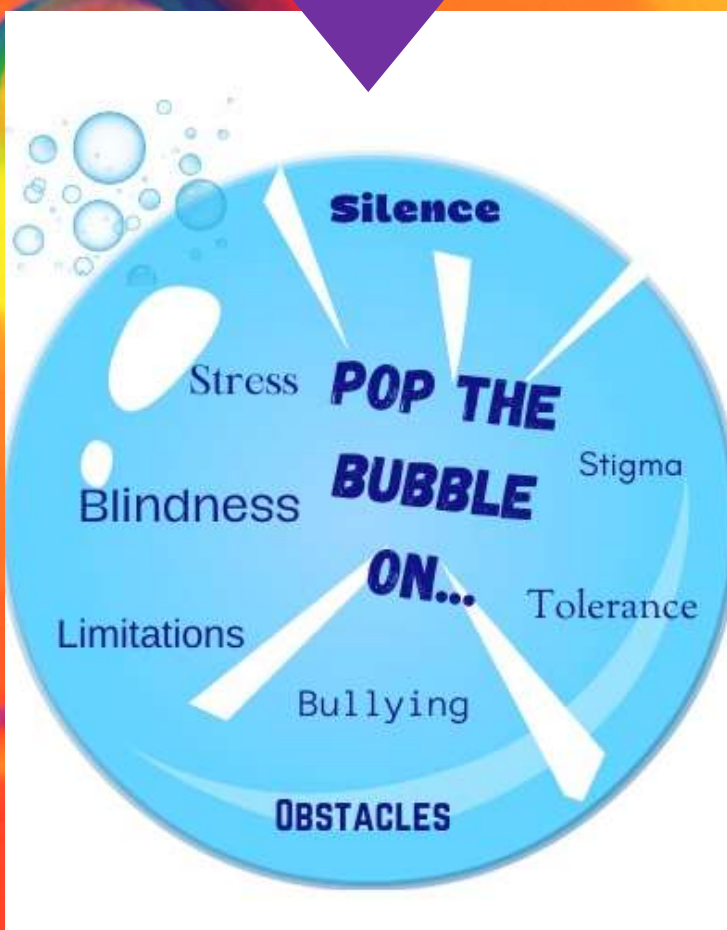
Shanty Creek Resort
March 9-10, 2024
Pre-Conference March 8, 2024
For more information, visit
<https://slstoday.net/conference2024/>



Winter 2024, Volume 37, Number 1

Attention!!
Please share this newsletter with
student leaders within your school!
Thank you!

Conference
Theme



CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

MAR
09



POSITIVITY: BE YOUR BEST SELF!

Kevin Szawala, aka "Mr. Peace", is a National Youth Speaker and Michigan native from Metro Detroit who specializes in bullying prevention, diversity and inclusion, teen mental health and suicide awareness.

MAR
09



SELF-CARE IS LIKE GARDENING FOR THE SOUL!

Benjamin Goss, aka Benji, Youth Pastor, served on the SLS State Student Advisory Board (SAB) from 2016-2018; SLS Intern from 2018-2023; SLS Pastor 2023-present. He received his Childrens and Family Ministry Degree from Mt. Vernon Nazarene University in May 2023. Benjamin is an active SLS Volunteer.

MAR
10



PICKLES AND STUFF!

Tricia DeVries has been involved with SLS programs since 1997. A member of the SLS State Student Advisory Board (SAB) from 2001-2002. In 2002, Tricia and other SAB members hosted the SLS International Collaborative Teen Conference in Detroit. A Graduate of Oakland University with a Bachelor of Science in Human Resources & Development. She currently works for GM as an IT Project Manager and Business Analyst. Tricia is an over-the-top SLS Volunteer.

Visit www.SLStoday.org for more conference information

Conference workshop topics are:

Mental Health is Blind!
Break the Chains (Bullying)
Calm and Collected (Stress Management)
Drop the Vapes and Kick the Butts (Vaping/Tobacco)
Overcoming Limiting Beliefs
Shifting Gears (Safe Driving with AAA)
Transition Tales
Take this job and LOVE it (Advisor Workshop)
And more...
Interested in presenting a workshop at the conference?
Contact dmf@slstoday.org

Students Leading Students, a program of Student Leadership Services, Inc. (SLS), is an assets-based school and community-based program implemented throughout Michigan. SLS aims to increase skills that protect students from anxiety, stress and self-defeating behaviors. SLS trains students in skills that decrease alcohol, tobacco and other drug use (ATOD) among middle and high-school students. SLS strategies empower and equip youth leaders with knowledge, life skills, and resources to design and implement youth development, mental health, and drug prevention programming. SLS supports local chapters by training adult advisors, training student chapter members/leaders, hosting student-led conferences, providing materials that correlate activities with research, providing grants, and disseminating evidence-based research and strategies about preventing teen ATOD use and other self-destructive pressures through participatory experiences for youth.

SLS Workshops

SLS

Contact dmf@slstoday.org to schedule at your school or organization

BREAKING DOWN
STEREOTYPES

TAKING CARE OF
SELF DURING
DIFFICULT TIMES

QUALITIES OF A
LEADER

COMMUNICATION
SKILLS

HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
AWARENESS

OVERCOMING
PROCRASTINATION

HOW TO HELP A
HURTING FRIEND

LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE
(3 DAYS)

HEALTHY
RELATIONSHIPS

PEER RESISTANCE
SKILLS

HEALTHY CHOICES

TEAM BUILDING

SAFE SOCIAL
MEDIA

SELF-
ACCEPTANCE/SELF
ESTEEM

COPING WITH
STRESS AND
ANXIETY

Other curricula include Botvin LifeSkills Training 8-18 sessions based on grade level
Guiding Good Choices (parent program - 5 sessions)
Prime for Life (understanding addiction-8 sessions 13+)

All Who Wander Are Not Lost

Brad Simmons was a true, dear friend to SLS for 29 years. His leadership as President of the SLS Board of Directors guided us through our meteoric growth and validation of SLS programs in Michigan and the United States. The students appreciated his participation in the Annual SLS State Conferences which he attended every year (29), Ford Driving Skills for Life events for SLS, Student Advisory Board celebrations and trainings, SLS Dream Cruise fundraising, SLS International Collaborative Conference hosted in Detroit for sixteen states and Ireland, in addition to SLS Strategic Planning. Brad received the SLS Lifetime Achievement and the Let Your Light Shine Awards from SLS.

Brad was a financial wizard and asked the tough questions. He was truthful, genuine, kind and very smart. He had faith in me, and he encouraged our SLS light to shine. His email signature included a quote that captures what SLS is all about. It reads, “All who wander are not lost.”

I will miss Brad Simmons forever. I am grateful that he will always look out for us as our guardian angel and shining light.

Pam Voss-Page, SLS Research Director, former SLS Executive Director.

Chapters...Run your group like Brad. Ask the tough questions.

“Why Did This Happen and What Can We Do?”

Chapter Tool for Resolving Disappointment and Violated Expectations

This discussion tool can be used to address broken commitments, violated expectations and poor behavior within SLS chapters. The questions may be used one-on-one or in a group discussion to problem solve and address accountability.

Some examples of when to use this tool:

- A meeting or event did not go as planned.
- Tasks that were assigned were not met timely or adequately.
- Members of the chapter are not getting along.
- Cliques or polarization issues.
- Any time a person or group does not meet the chapter’s expectations.
- Any time a person or group does not hold up their end of an agreement.

Depending on the issue, it may be appropriate for the advisor or for specific students to lead the discussion. If the issue pertains to a single person, it may be better to use this tool on a one-on-one basis rather than bringing it to group discussion.

1. What bad results do we want to fix? Was there a single instance of the problem or is it a recurring pattern?
2. Ask the group to come to a consensus on what the expectation or rule was versus what actually happened (describe the gap). “The expectation is ____, but what happened was _____. Why?” Be careful to use facts and not stories. Identify the facts and get rid of stories. For example, a fact is that overall attendance has not been consistent. A story is that students are not dedicated to the chapter.
3. How is this problem affecting the strength of the chapter and relationships within the chapter?
4. What do we really want for the chapter? What does it look like when our behavior matches these wishes? Ask each student to report out a do/don’t statement. For example, “I don’t want us to fight, I do want us to become closer as a chapter.”
5. Have students explore the following questions?
 - Are we motivated?
 - Do we enjoy it when we meet the expectation?
 - Do we motivate each other to meet the expectation?
 - How are we rewarded when we meet the expectation?
 - Are we individually able to meet the expectation?
 - Do we make it possible for others to meet the expectation?
 - Are there resources or tools that would allow us to better meet the expectation?
6. Move to action: WHO does WHAT by WHEN and set a follow-up date.

A note from the editor: Allison McCauley

The poem to the right addresses the five stages of grief. Whether you are grieving the loss of a person, an item, a place, plans you had hoped for, a season of life that ended, or a relationship, it is a normal and healthy process to grieve. Confiding in a trusted family member, friend, counselor, therapist, teacher, mentor, coach, or an advisor can help you process these emotions and the loss you are experiencing. Do not be afraid to seek help. Community is crucial. People are social beings, and we need each other’s help to get through tough times and to build each other up. If you notice someone seems sad, lonely, or that they may be going through a tough time, reach out to them. Sometimes people just need someone to sit there and listen to them. If you can empathize with the person, share with them that you know how they feel. If you haven’t experienced the specific loss they are going through, at least offer sympathy and a listening ear. You could make someone’s day just by showing them you care enough to listen.



Rerouting

By: Pastor Benjamin Goss

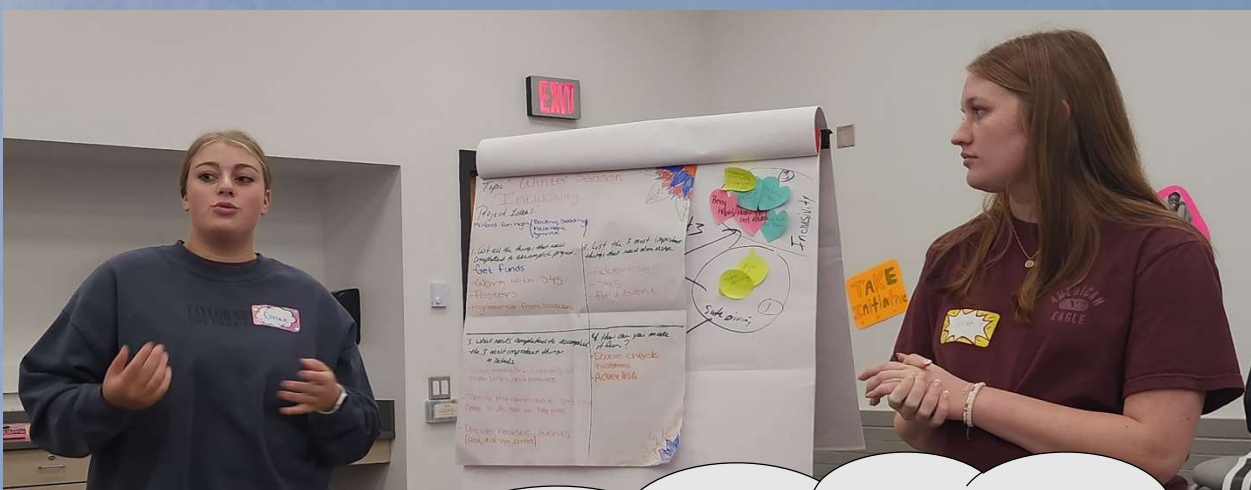
Rerouting, please proceed to the route.
A simple guiding phrase breaks through the silence of an almost full vehicle. Driving forward aimlessly to try to process the loss of the DJ that sat in the passenger seat. Turning up the radio to drown out the sniffles in the backseat and it’s like things never changed.

Rerouting, please proceed to the route.
Once guiding now demanding fills the vehicle with rage. Every small and minor thing was an act of an invisible war that seemed real but is only expressed through emotions. Words that would never normally be said saw the light of day.

Rerouting, please proceed to the route.
Echoing louder and louder wishing the original route was followed. Pleading with whatever higher power was listening to switch position of the grieving. Trying to do the impossible, driving to the ends of the earth to find any solution that was needed.

Rerouting, please proceed to the route.
Pulling into the drive-thru, the vehicle waits to order. The aroma of vinegar tears mixes with food in hopes to fill the void that was created. Stories start to get told of how a simple passenger can make a day, this is when a new sound of laughter enters the vehicle.

Rerouting, please proceed to the route.
Things will never be the same and that’s okay. Slipping back into denial is normal and understandable to get angry. Bargaining and depression can come at any time, but don’t grieve as there is no hope but trust and continue on. This acceptance allows for confidence to follow the route at the right pace.



Below and to the left: Milford High School discussing their focus topics for the year: Inclusivity and No No's (Drugs).

Below: Posen High School SLS. Great job, team!

'If I were in charge....'
Student Leadership Services Newsletter wants to know what you would do if you were in charge of this publication. To tell us, just send an email to dmf@slstoday.org. Tell us what you like and what you'd like to see changed.

PERSONAL

Values

100%

Willingness to be a positive role model to peers in and out of school

100%

Be open-minded, and respect others' opinions and ideas

100%

Being committed to help make a change in you and your surrounding communities.

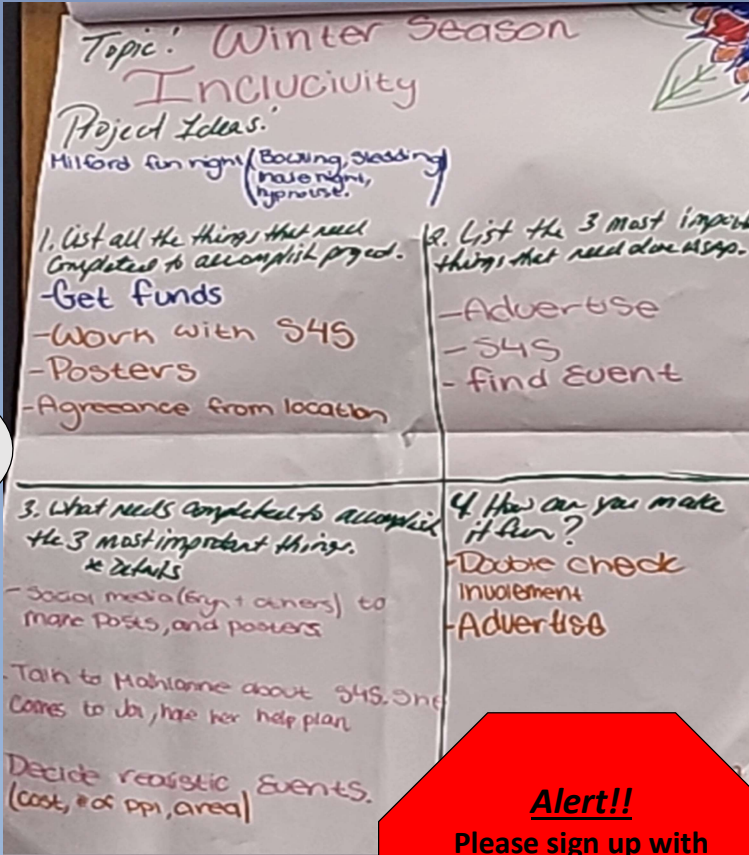
OUR CHAPTER

Vision

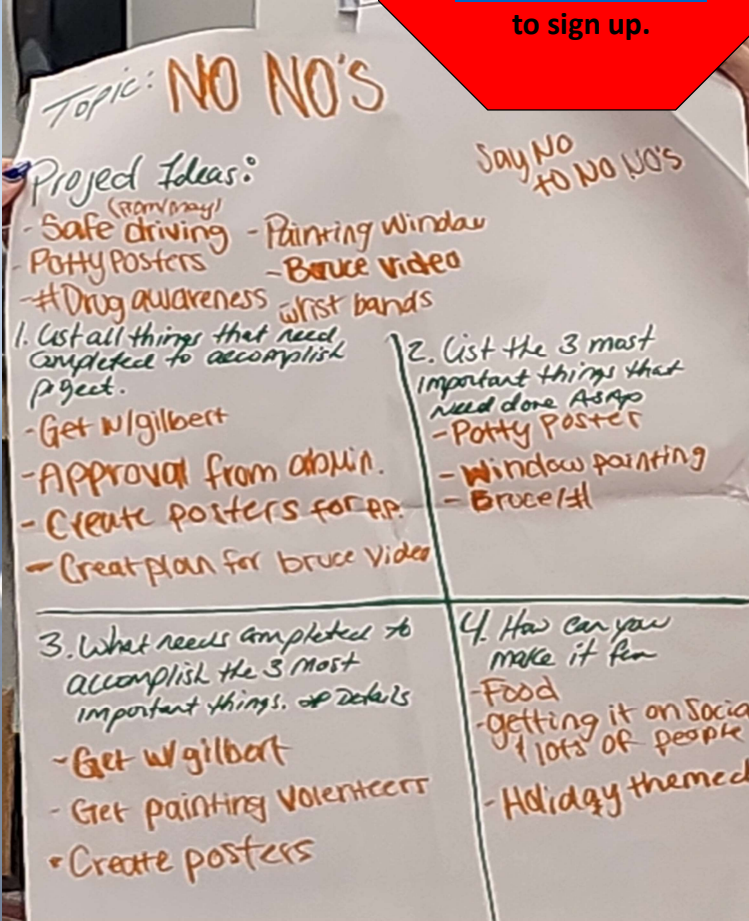
Our vision is to help as many of our peers as we can. We would like to keep this chapter going for as long as we can and to reach as many students as possible.

Values

We value everyone's right to be equal. Every member of our chapter has a voice and their voice is always to be heard. The members of our chapter collaborate to make choices, there are no officers.



Alert!!
Please sign up with our Google Classroom. Contact dmf@slstoday.org to sign up.



988 is the new Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. It is now active! You can text and/or call to 988 and chat to 988lifeline.org.



For education, information, and inspiration, stay connected with SLS!
www.SLStoday.org
1150 Scott Lake Rd
Waterford, MI 48328
248-706-0757

Pictured the left:
Taylor High School SLS Officers
at the SLS Officers Training.
From left to right:
Matthew, Autumn, Addison,
and Cameron.

Thank you!

Stacey Anklaam Dan Peace Jet Heat
Voss Steel Edelyn Westwood Photography LLC
WSP Seniors Dianne Bostic Robinson Ward Bartlett
Sign Fabricators Sue White Dean Petitpren
Toni Lauretano, Alumna Larry Rotta Dawn Flood
Tricia Devries, Alumna Laura Dodd, Alumna Brad Petitpren
Robert Moore, Alumnus Boys and Girls Club Troy
Brad Simmons David Simmons Trust Pam Voss-Page
Glantz Bill Brown Ford Zane and Sandra Hatahet
Wolf-Chandler Agency Nikki and Allan Motes, Alumna
United Way of Southeast Michigan Jim Lalonde, Alumnus
Jim Page Robert Beard Foundation T-shirt Plus
Mike Talamonti Deb Kowalczyk Rocky Byington, Alumnus
Rose Sargol Steve Wroblewski OMPT Specialists, Inc.
Pete and Teresa Lauretano Advanced Endodontics
Kathleen Altman Lynne Gellerman Rochelle Winstead

SLS is an inclusive organization that supports all student-led groups that support the SLS mission.

Pictured below: Otsego Middle School STAND discussing their focus topics for the year: Drugs, Cussing (Swearing), and Skipping Class.

SLS is the only Michigan-developed, student-led program with proven outcomes and national validation.



Pictured above: Garber High School SLS.



Board of Directors
Ward Bartlett, President
Dianne Bostic Robinson, Strategic Planning
Toni Lauretano, Fund Development Chair
Zane Sami Hatahet, Media Spokesperson
Griselda Mucollari, Google Ads
Michael Talamonti, Networking

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has additional helpful resources. Follow NIMH on social media for more information.

SLS Staff
Dawn Flood, Executive Director/ Master Trainer
Pamela Voss-Page, Research Director
Marcia Partin, Prevention Specialist
Morgan Kauffman, Intern
Deborah Kowalczyk, CPA
Allison McCauley, Newsletter Editor
Pastor Benjamin Goss, Youth Pastor
Volunteer Alumni throughout the world!
Student Advisory Board Members 1986-2023



JCT Foundation



Petitpren