



# 38th ANNUAL SLS HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

March 15-16, 2025

Pre-conference March 14

Shanty Creek Resort Welcomes SLS Back!



Winter 2025, Volume 38, Number 1

## SPEAKERS

Anthony Grupido  
#MagicofHope  
(Overcoming Depression & Anxiety)

Sgt. Kendall Kretzschmer  
#BeAware  
(School Safety)

Alexis Ulmer  
Miss Oakland County  
#FoodFreedom  
(Preventing Eating Disorders)

## WORKSHOPS

Student-led Workshops

Job Interview Skills; Coping with Stress; Athletes and Mental Health; Standing Out Against Stereotypes; Life after High School; Collaborating with Others; Power of Words; and more!

## ENTERTAINMENT

Student Musicians  
The 'Big' Dance- Disney: Wish Upon a Star

## Traditions

Student Speeches; School Exhibits; Door Decoration Contest; Advisor Recognition Dinner and Awards; Happy & Perky SLS Mascots; Student Emcees; T-shirts; Prizes; Action Plan Presentations with \$500 winning prize; Friday night activities for pre-conference attendees

**MICHIGAN'S ONLY 100% VALIDATED STUDENT-LED STATE CONFERENCE**

For more information scan or visit [www.SLStoday.org](http://www.SLStoday.org)

Register by 1/31 and save \$!



**SLS CONFERENCE IS LIKE NO OTHER!**  
"It is more than a conference; it is an *EXPERIENCE*." When I went into teaching, I knew I wanted to help make a difference in student's lives. I knew that I wanted the opportunity to do something beyond my standard teaching in the classroom. The first time I went to the SLS conference was as a last-minute favor for my friend to help her keep an eye on students. I agreed to help her out and it was one of the best decisions I have ever made in regards to moving forward in my educational opportunities. That weekend I was introduced to Students Leading Students on a deeper level than I had ever experienced before. I was so excited to see all the students who were taking on the responsibility of helping their peers to make good decisions. I wanted to be a part of that change. After my second-year volunteering, I knew that I needed to help start up this organization at Summit Academy North High School. To my excitement, we had no groups like this, and it was something that my principal was very excited for us to be able to be a part of! Since starting the group, my student leaders have made incredible progress on their plans, the future is looking bright!

Jenny Spino-Sudut  
Teacher and SLS Advisor  
Summit Academy North High School

Pictured below:  
Clarenceville High School  
SLS Action Planning Training.  
Pictured to the right is Perky. Perky is loving his new home at Clarenceville SLS. He is excited to see where he goes next when he returns to conference in March 2025!



"Perky"

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



### Welcome to SLS, Ann!

I grew up in Clarkston and graduated from Michigan State University. After a range of teaching positions from 29 Palms, California to a UAW daycare, I finally landed at Mason Middle School in Waterford. I taught Language Arts and Science to 6-8th graders for 23 years. I earned my Master's Degree in Science Education from Walden University while raising a son and daughter who went to Walled Lake Schools. My husband Scott, a retired middle school teacher turned contractor, and I share my kids, their spouses, one grandson, his 3 boys, a cat and several grand pets. We spend time camping, visiting family, watching Netflix, and hanging out on our front porch. I always wanted to be the "fun" person to go to classrooms like my friend Dawn. I am so happy to be a part of SLS.

Ann Colwell Johnson  
SLS Program Specialist



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, vaping, 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, and training student chapter leaders. SLS hosts student-led conferences, provides materials that correlate activities with research, provides grants, and disseminates evidence-based research and strategies about preventing teen ATOD use and other self-destructive actions. SLS creates participatory experiences for youth. To bring SLS to your school, anywhere in Michigan, small towns, Mackinaw Island, UP contact [dmf@SLStoday.org](mailto:dmf@SLStoday.org) or call 248-706-0757.



**Pictured above: Madison Academy High School's SLS Leadership and Action Plan Training.**



**Pictured above: Madison Academy High School's Fall Thankful Bulletin Board. This winter, let's continue to spread an attitude of gratitude in our schools.**

**Recent Activities of Hillman High School's SLS Chapter:**

We participated in Suicide Awareness Week where we passed out bracelets, ChapStick, pens, etc. and had a spirit week where students dressed up in support of suicide prevention. Students made signs and hung them up throughout the building.

We held an assembly with Guest Speaker, Nathan Harmon, who spoke on mental health, character, and team building.

We hosted a Tailgate Party at the Homecoming Football game where students participated in games. We served hotdogs, chips, and water and we had face painting, tattoos and passed out Prevention bling and information.

We kicked off Red Ribbon Week with Arrive Alive (interactive distracted driving simulator) and students pledged to grow up safe, healthy and drug free. We had a basket raffle, Wore Red, passed out suckers, bracelets, ribbons, and buttons. Six of our SLS members did PSAs at our local radio station during Red Ribbon week. We hung signs and had something happening each day during lunch hour. Guess the Candy, and more!

Students visited the residents at Hillman Haven & Medi Lodge for Veterans Day. The brought residents joy and happiness and passed out little gift bags with treats and an American Flag. Students also became Pen Pals with 12 of the residents at Hillman's Haven. They have been writing them weekly giving them hope and companionship during the winter months.

Students have been going to Bingo at Medi Lodge engaging with the residents to help keep them active and their minds sharp.

Students decorate bulletin boards and spread positivity throughout the school during the entire year.

**Pictured to the right: Hillman and Posen High School SLS groups at a November training.**



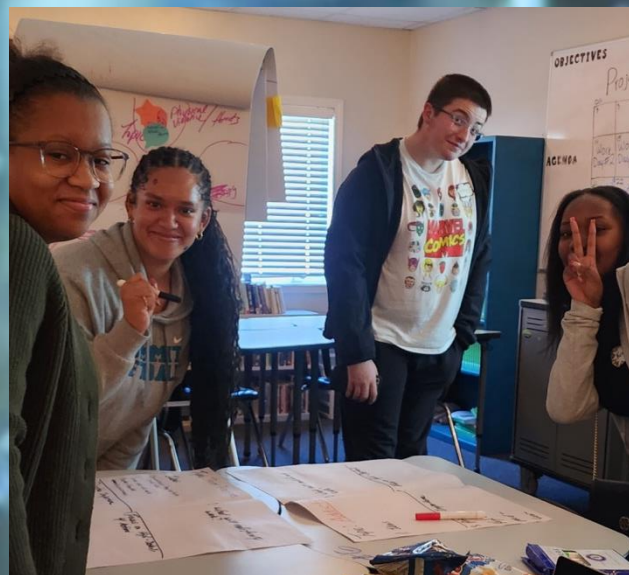
**Pictured above: Madison Academy High School's Hygiene Closet developed and sponsored by their SLS Group. Good idea, guys! Let's see if other chapters can create something similar. Talk with your group about this or other donation ideas to help your community.**

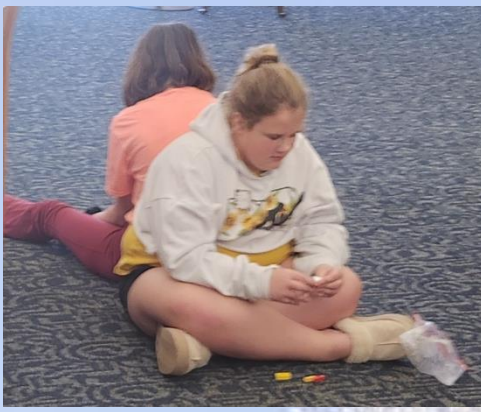


**Welcome to the SLS family Summit Academy North High School! Pictured below.**



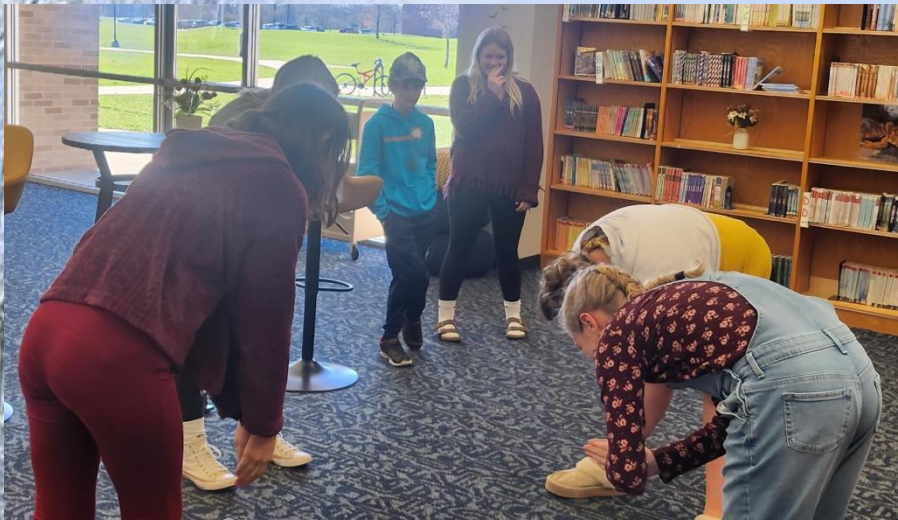
**Fun day at an SLS training pictured above. Alcona High School student's created skits and planned projects for the year! Who says you can't have fun while working?**



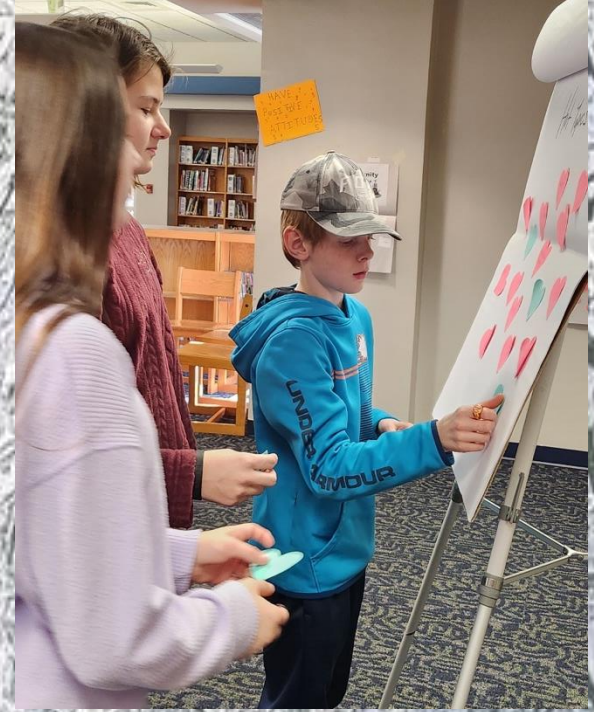


**Creativity Needed!**  
 Looking for student created music, poems, stories, posters and other artistic outlets. We are looking for artistic expression that represent SLS. Opportunities to win a scholarship and have your IDEA sent to all Michigan schools (2,500).

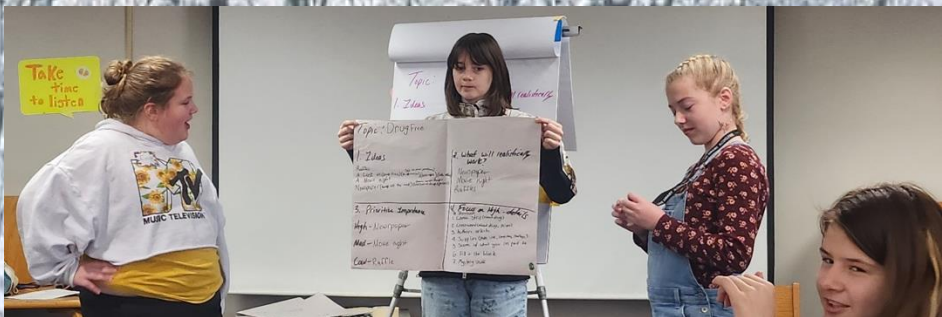
Featured on this page: Otsego Middle School STAND Group training pictures. Their focus for this school year is on drug awareness and bullying.



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

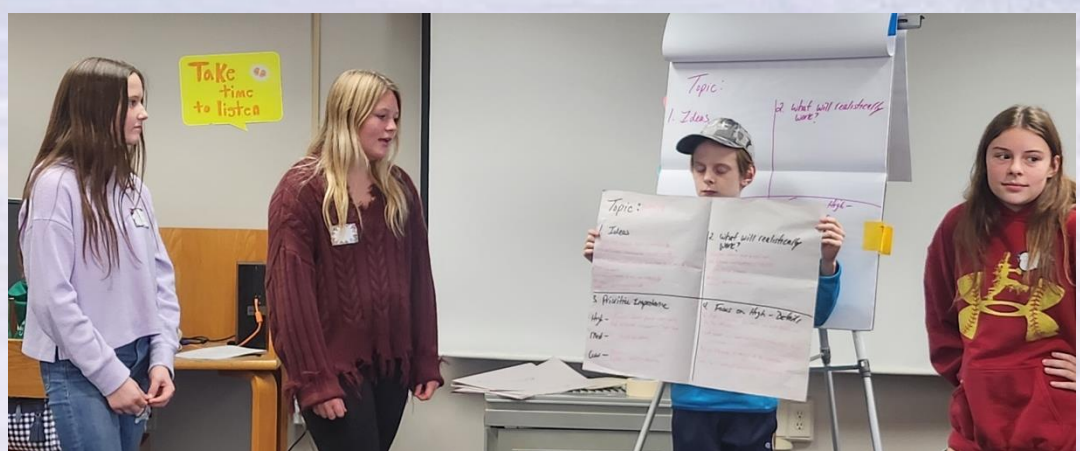


SLS is an inclusive organization that supports all student-led groups that support the SLS mission.



**It Works!**  
 A Testimony of How SLS Benefits Milford High School  
 By: Heather Lutz, Teacher

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the work of Student Leadership Services in the state of Michigan. We have partnered with Student Leadership Services (SLS) for the past couple of years and our school has benefited greatly. SLS offers several programs that have been instrumental in making sure students make safe and healthy choices. We have collaborated with Student Leadership Services on several initiatives at Milford High School. SLS has come to our school to present to students on the topic of procrastination. We offered this presentation to the entire student body in our theater. This presentation helped offer coping strategies for the students in attendance. In addition, SLS has worked directly with our Junior Optimist Club (JOI) for the past three years. Dawn and her team have met with our club officers at the start of the school year to teach quality skills such as teamwork, leadership and understanding. They show the JOI officers how to collaborate and brainstorm, which ultimately leads to our focus areas for the club. Moreover, the SLS team has provided JOI members with Peer Resistance Training. We have about a dozen JOI members that are trained each year. Once trained, these high school students meet with the 5th graders in our school district to teach them how to resist peer pressure and handle difficult situations. The elementary school students enjoy hearing from the JOI members and their teachers have expressed how impactful this program has been for their students. Each and every one of these initiatives have been high quality and made a direct impact on the students in our school district. SLS is making a meaningful difference in the lives of our students, and I am so grateful for our partnership.



# Thank you Sponsors and Partners!



JCT Foundation

Petitpren, Inc.



Enterprise Mobility™



Federal, State, and/or County Funding has been provided through the Oakland Community Health Network Substance Use Disorder Services and MDHHS/SUGE to support partial project costs.



Pictured to the left and below: Atherton High School SLS Kindness Week posters. Keep spreading the message, team!

@SLSTODAY



### Thank you SLS Supporters!

Brad Simmons    Stacey Anklam    Dan Peace    JetHeat    Voss Steel    Enterprise Mobility Foundation  
 Edelyn Westwood Photography LLC    Dianne Bostic Robinson    Ward Bartlett    Sign Fabricators    Sue White  
 Dean Petitpren, Founder    Brad Petitpren    Toni Lauretano, Alumna    Larry Rotta, Founder  
 Tricia DeVries, Alumna    Laura Dodd, Alumna    Robert Moore, Alumnus    Boys and Girls Club Troy  
 David Simmons Trust    Pam Voss-Page    Griselda Mucollari    Rose Sargol  
 Zane and Sandra Hatahet    Nikki Voss-Motes and Allan Motes, Alumna    Dawn and Jeremy Flood  
 United Way of Southeast Michigan    Jim Lalonde, Alumnus    Jim Page    Robert Beard Foundation  
 T-shirt Plus    Mike Talamonti    Deb Kowalczyk    Rocky Byington, Alumnus    Quality Lumbar  
 OMPT Specialists, Inc.    CCR Renovations    Bill Brown Ford    Michele Rousseau    Michelle Turner, Alumna  
 Lisa Whitman, Mortgage One    Paul Shamo    Datham Precision



Pictured above and to the left: Atherton High School SLS and NHS Leadership Training. Keep up the good work!



**988** is the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. You can text and/or call to **988** and chat to [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org).



### SLS Staff

Dawn Flood, Executive Director/ Master Trainer  
 Pamela Voss-Page, Research Director  
 Marcia Partin, Prevention Specialist  
 Ann Colwell Johnson, Program Specialist  
 Allison Davis, Newsletter Editor  
 Pastor Benjamin Goss, Youth Pastor  
 Aitana Massey, SAB Advisor  
**Student Advisory Board Members 1986-2025**  
 Volunteer Alumni throughout the world!

### SLS Board of Directors

Ward Bartlett, President (since 1997)  
 Toni Lauretano, Vice-President & Secretary  
 Michael Talamonti, Treasurer  
 Dianne Bostic Robinson, Board (since 1997)  
 Zane Hatahet, Board  
 Michael Talamonti, Board  
 Griselda Mucollari, Board

For education, information, and inspiration, stay connected with SLS.  
[www.SLStoday.org](https://www.SLStoday.org)  
 1150 Scott Lake Rd  
 Waterford, MI 48328  
 248-706-0757