



Dear Madison County Students,

On behalf of the Mannie Jackson Center for Humanities Foundation, we are thrilled that you will be participating in the ***Conversation Toward a Brighter Future*** Student Summit. This project will provide a unique opportunity to promote respect, dignity, understanding, and forgiveness in your schools and across communities through the workings of the best – YOU!

As future leaders of this nation, it is up to you to begin the conversation toward ways we can make this country better. To make this happen, we are asking students to play a major role in exploring problems that face us all and finding positive solutions through meaningful and constructive discussions.

**February 23 & 25 Summit: Warm-Up/Get to Know You Activities**

As a way of getting to know students from other school districts and communities, our warm-up/get to know you session will include sharing information about yourself and discussing what respect, dignity, understanding and forgiveness means to you!

In preparation to attend the Summit, please consider the following:

- What does respect, dignity, understanding, and forgiveness mean to you?
- How should these values be demonstrated amongst you, your friends, family, and even those you do not know?

***And don't worry, we won't ask you to stand up front and present your findings like Taylor Swift about to drop a sick new album.***

## Getting Your Project Started

### 1. Begin thinking of a plan for your school and community:

How can we help our fellow students learn to listen, respect, understand, and even at times forgive? How can we help our peers understand and appreciate each other's struggles and shortcomings? This is your opportunity to design a plan to bring our school communities together using core values of respect, dignity, understanding, and forgiveness.

### 2. Research & identify an issue:

What's a big problem in your school? This is your chance to tackle a problem and make your school a better place. Develop a plan to bring people together in both your school and other school settings. Design a project that requires your fellow peers to go outside of their comfort zones and apply the core values of respect, dignity, understanding, and forgiveness. Plans must have:

- ✓ Measurable outcomes (We can see them working.)
- ✓ Sustainability (After we graduate, the positive effects will still be visible.)
- ✓ The ability to be copied in other schools (We want to share our success with others!)

### 3. Build your team:

Work in a team to complete the project. Be creative! Use social media, after-school gatherings, school activities, etc. Projects should creatively inspire your peers to make positive change.

### 4. Let's break it down! Questions that must be answered during your research:

- What issues do you see in your school when it comes to respect, dignity, understanding and forgiveness?
- Where do these issues originate?
- Why do these issues occur?
- What can be done to change conditions?
- Why is it important to demonstrate respect, dignity, understanding and forgiveness?
- What are the consequences for your school if students, teachers, administrators and staff fail to embrace respect, dignity, understanding and forgiveness?
- What is your plan for addressing the identified issue in your school?
- Would evidence of respect, dignity, understanding and forgiveness in your school result in a better future? How?

5. Here's the nitty gritty. Written Project Proposal Requirements:

Cover Page

- Title of Project
- Name of School
- Contact Person

Project Abstract

- The project abstract should present a concise summary of the project. It should be no longer than a page and include the identified issue to be addressed, a brief description of the project, and its goals and objectives. Mention how the project will be evaluated to measure its success.

Statement of Issue

- The statement of issue should describe the problem that your team will attempt to address. Describe the population (high school or middle school) that will be served.

Project Description

- Describe the project and provide information on how it will be implemented. Include information on what will be accomplished and the desired outcome.

(If you have any questions, your facilitator will be more than willing to help out and provide answers.)

The MJCHF looks forward to meeting you and cannot wait to begin our ***Conversation Toward a Brighter Future!***

Respectfully,

Dr. Ed Hightower, Executive Director

Dr. Robert Daiber, Madison County Regional Superintendent