

Press from:

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Subject: **New Providence High School participates in Character Education training program**

New Providence High School students recently attended UC STEP, a Union County Student Training and Enrichment Program, held at Kean University. Together with 250 other peers from across Union County, they participated in leadership, personal growth and civic engagement workshops during the full day summit.

Ms. Christine Noppenberger, school counselor and a Character Education coordinator for the high school, organized the delegation of nine students in grades ten and eleven. Students from NPHS have been participating in the UC STEP program for four years.

The Civic Engagement Challenge is the main event of the UC STEP program. Students come together in teams to brainstorm and create a county-wide community service campaign. The service campaign ideas are voted on at UC STEP and through an online poll. The campaign with the most votes is then undertaken by all participating Union County high schools. This year's service initiative is "Suicide Prevention and Survivor Support."

Brooke Arnold, a NPHS Junior, states " UC Step is a wonderful program and I am so happy I was able to be a part of it. Not only did we learn leadership skills, but we learned life skills. Even though the skills me and my other peers have learned are going to be so useful in our future, the greatest outcome of UC Step is the relationships that we made. So thank you UC Step staff for teaching us great leadership skills and connecting me with so many amazing people."