

The *START* Conference

A Youth Leadership Initiative
Sponsored by the Student Leadership Training Program

November 20, 2016

Dear Guidance Counselor, Principal and/or Freshman Class Adviser:

Kayla So
(East Greenwich HS):
"I loved the speakers.
Especially Katelyn
Weymouth. She made me
laugh, and she made me
think."

Molly Zarriello (Grafton
HS): I loved the play. It
was so real, and it helped
everyone talk. Come to
think of it, we spent a lot
of time at START talking
about real things."

Lauren Blackmar (Putnam
HS):
"These were three
incredible days. I can't
believe how fast the time
flew by. It was intense but
at the same time relaxed.
Here everyone was so real.
It was just really
comfortable."

For more information:
Helen L. Fitzgerald
Executive Director
CASA / SLTP
1.781.837.9572

Once again, on **May 19th, 20th, and 21st**, The *START* Conference (*Students Taking Active Responsibility Today*) will take place on the Nichols College campus in Dudley, Mass., and **we are asking you to nominate two of your 9th graders** to apply for this opportunity of a lifetime.

Last year's program was a great success! We hosted over **120 delegates from 96 New England high schools**, and the closing ceremony with parents was particularly moving when the Co-Chairs of the Conference Beth and Brenna challenged everyone: "It's up to us to make a difference. It's up to us to care."

The tuition is just \$50 dollars per student which covers all expenses except transportation. In this three day residential experience, students receive all meals, lodging and materials, including a leadership handbook.

The selection process is easy! Just follow these simple steps:

1. Seek out and recognize two potential 9th grade leaders by distributing the *START* Applications Worksheet to all 9th grade students.
2. After selecting a student representative, help that individual complete the *START* Registration Form.
3. Mail the *START* Registration Form with the registration fee of \$50 for each student made out to "**CASA**" by **December 18th** to guarantee your students seats at the program. You may fax the *START* Registration Form and separately mail the check (**the check must be mailed within 10 days**) to the address indicated.

Attached please find a brochure with testimonials about The *START* Conference.

Thank you for participating. Trained student leaders can positively impact your entire school and community.

The *START* Conference Team
of the **Student Leadership Training Program**

The **START** Conference

A Youth Leadership Initiative
Sponsored by the Student Leadership Training Program

The START Mission is to value, acknowledge, motivate and cultivate young adults' potential for active leadership roles in their schools and communities.

START Vision

As an educator, you know that student leaders in your classrooms today can affect great change. The **START Conference (Students Taking Active Responsibility Today)** will help motivate and develop future leaders from schools across New England.

START Purpose

Rather than having students passively take notes while adults lecture, The **START** Conference is a unique 3-day program with a highly-interactive process. We introduce high school freshmen to motivational speakers from various sectors of the community.

START Expected Outcomes

The **START** Conference has been designed to draw from the expertise of the Student Leadership Training Program (SLTP). We intend to create an experience for your 9th grade leader which will produce the following results:

- **Students learn to think positively.** We motivate students by showing them that “how to think” can be just as important as “what to think.”
- **Students enhance their leadership skills.** By taking part in question-and-answer sessions, small group discussions, and thought-provoking exercises, the 9th graders come to better understand the true meaning of “active” leadership. Through our workshops, keynote speakers, leadership simulations and goal setting exercises, the students begin to identify and improve their own leadership strengths.
- **Students learn about citizenship.** Delegates will take advantage SLTP’s resources at the forefront of leadership training. Through exposure to leaders in business and education, students will get a clearer picture of what sustains our way of life and what must be done to preserve it.
- **Students meet other young leaders.** During The **START** Conference, students will discover that they are not alone in their desire to lead and to make their schools and communities better places. Meeting students who are similarly motivated from across Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, New York and Rhode Island is a powerful and reaffirming experience.
- **Students are motivated to accept the challenge of leadership.** **START** students will be exposed to a vision of what can be. All aspects of The **START** Conference are geared to encourage the students to see leadership as a life-long goal worth pursuing. They will come away from The **START** Conference experience having learned that as individuals, they are important and that their thoughts and actions can make a difference.

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SOME COMMON QUESTIONS ANSWERED

- 1. What schools are eligible?**

Any diploma granting, accredited public or private school located in New England may nominate a student representative. All 9th graders are eligible and should be encouraged to apply. Two representatives should be selected per school. If space permits, additional nominees **will be** invited to attend.
- 2. When do I submit my representatives' names (both Primary and Secondary).**

The guaranteed acceptance date is **December 18th, 2016**. Official *START* Registration Forms received after this date will be considered on a space available basis. The registration fee after December 18th is \$85 per student.
- 3. How do I submit the students' names?**

Simply fill out the enclosed Official *START* Registration Form identifying your two Primary representatives and mail it to:

The *START* Conference Registration
108 Observatory Way
Marshfield, MA 02050-4101
Fax: 1-781-837-1634
- 4. What Does the Conference Cost?**

The non-refundable registration fee (\$50) is the only cost to the student or to the school. The tuition for the entire conference which includes all meals, rooming, tee shirt and all of the conference materials has been paid. The Student Leadership Training Program through our dedicated volunteers, supporting businesses, and cooperating organizations, raise all of the funds needed to stage The *START* Conference, except for transportation to and from the conference site. (Make checks payable to CASA.)
- 5. When Is the Conference?**

The *START* Conference will be held **Friday, May 19, Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21**.
- 6. Where Is the Conference Held?**

Nichols College will host the conference on its lovely New England campus located in the rolling hills of Dudley, Massachusetts.
- 7. Is there any chance that the Secondary Selections will be able to attend?**

You are asked to select Secondary representatives at the same time you select your Primary representatives and to submit all four names on the Official *START* Registration Form (See 3 above). In the event that openings occur or if Primary representatives are unable to attend, we will contact the Secondary representatives to fill those seats on a first come first served basis.
- 8. What Additional Opportunities Will Become Available to the Delegates Upon Completion of the Conference?**

Many opportunities become available after a delegate completes the Conference. For example: SLTP Conferences which include: The Officer Training Seminar, The ReEnergizer Conference, The InterLead Forum, The Leadership Training Conference(s) [residential – 4 conferences], The Advanced Leadership Training Conference(s) [residential – 4 conferences] and The Leadership Center [residential].
- 9. Where Can I Get Additional Information about the *START* Conference and the Student Leadership Training Program?**

Visit our web site: <http://www.sltp.info/Start.html>

For more information you can email: helen@sltp.info

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SELECTING YOUR **START** REPRESENTATIVE

Three easy steps ...

1. **Promote the Program**

Encourage all teachers affiliated with your 9th grade students to mention the program in their classes and distribute the *START* "Yes! I am Interested Form" included in this packet. Make an announcement to the student body. Only one student from each high school may attend, but all 9th graders should be encouraged to apply.

2. **Consider an Essay Competition (optional)**

Many schools use essays to sharpen the selection process. A sample essay topic is: *"In 75 to 100 words, please describe the most rewarding and challenging aspect of being a leader in our school and community."* This essay is for your use in selecting a representative and does not need to be submitted to the Student Leadership Training Program.

3. **Select a *START* Representative**

Leadership ability cuts across race, ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic status. In other words, those with demonstrated leadership ability, or potential, can come from anywhere, and *all* groups should be considered in selecting your student to attend the 2016 *START* Conference.

You may choose to appoint a selection team to select the best representatives for your school. In general, multiple criteria should be employed in making your selection - i.e., more than one factor or leadership quality.

4. **Fill out and send in the Official *START* Registration form by December 18, 2015** Send only the enclosed "Official" *START* Registration Form" and the \$50 registration fee for each student (\$100 total). Please retain a copy for your own records. Make checks payable to CASA.

Please, no purchase orders.

Mail: **The *START* Conference Registration**
108 Observatory Way
Marshfield, MA 02050-4101

Fax: 1-781-837-1634

Please be patient. Delegate registration packets will be mailed in April!

<http://www.sltp.info/Start.html>

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YES! I AM INTERESTED FORM FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY



Dear 9th Grader:

Are you ready to fine-tune your leadership skills with other leaders from high schools throughout New England?

Two freshmen from this high school will have an opportunity to attend **The START Conference for youth leadership training** at Nichols College in Dudley, Massachusetts, on **May 19th, 20th, and May 21st**. And it could be you!

The Conference is a three-day weekend leadership program where you will make new friends, learn some new skills and have fun. **This year's theme is: Choose to lead!**

You'll hear motivational speakers, learn how to set goals, have give-and-take discussions about a variety of current and critical topics, stay overnight in a college dorm room, have some delicious meals, and graduate with a certificate of achievement. The only charge for all the meals, lodging, and materials, including a Leadership Handbook, is a \$50 registration fee for each student.

You will find the 2017 *START* Conference a fantastic, life-motivating experience. Complete this form as soon as possible and return it to your guidance counselor or principal to express your interest in representing your school.

Check it out: www.sltp.info/Start.html

Yes! I am interested in attending The START Conference for youth leadership training!

Student's Full Name Signature _____

Homeroom Teacher _____ Date _____

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The **START** Conference

May 19, 20, and 21 OFFICIAL **START** REGISTRATION FORM

Submit your school's representatives on this form by
December 18, 2016

Please retain a copy of this form for your records

Enclose check for \$50 for each delegate payable to: **CASA**

Please, no purchase orders.

School _____

PRIMARY Representative Information

Name _____ Sex _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I agree to abide by all of the rules and regulations established by the officials of The **START** Conference. Further, I will commit myself to being a worthy representative of my school and community by contributing my best efforts towards the success of the program.

Representative Signature _____

Parent or Guardian Information

Mother or Father's name _____

Home phone _____ Business phone _____

Title/employer _____

Email _____

PRIMARY Representative Information

Name _____ Sex _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I agree to abide by all of the rules and regulations established by the officials of The **START** Conference. Further, I will commit myself to being a worthy representative of my school and community by contributing my best efforts towards the success of the program.

Representative Signature _____

Parent or Guardian Information

Mother or Father's name _____

Home phone _____ Business phone _____

Title/employer _____

Email _____

School Information

Official School Contact Person _____

Principal _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

- The student representatives must be able to attend for the **ENTIRE** Conference (no exceptions!)

Mail to: The **START** Conference Registration
c/o Dr. Jim Fitzgerald
108 Observatory Way
Marshfield, MA 02050-4101

Or Fax to: 781.837.1634
(you may fax form and then send check by mail)

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The **START** Conference

May 19, 20, and 21 OFFICIAL **START** REGISTRATION FORM

Submit your school's alternate representatives on this form by
December 18, 2016

Please retain a copy of this form for your records

Please, DO NOT INCLUDE A TUITION PAYMENT FOR THE SECONDARY SELECTION S. In the event that vacancies occur the Secondary Representatives will be contacted and invited to the conference.

School _____

SECONDARY Representative Information

Name _____ Sex _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I agree to abide by all of the rules and regulations established by the officials of The **START** Conference. Further, I will commit myself to being a worthy representative of my school and community by contributing my best efforts towards the success of the program.

Representative Signature _____

Parent or Guardian Information

Mother or Father's name _____

Home phone _____ Business phone _____

Title/employer _____

Email _____

SECONDARY Representative Information

Name _____ Sex _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I agree to abide by all of the rules and regulations established by the officials of The **START** Conference. Further, I will commit myself to being a worthy representative of my school and community by contributing my best efforts towards the success of the program.

Representative Signature _____

Parent or Guardian Information

Mother or Father's name _____

Home phone _____ Business phone _____

Title/employer _____

Email _____

School Information

Official School Contact Person _____

Principal _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

- The student representatives must be able to attend for the **ENTIRE** Conference (no exceptions!)

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