

## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

### **Student Emerging Leaders Program Congressional Hispanic Caucus and Congressional Black Caucus**

#### **Program Overview**

The Student Emerging Leaders Program, a partnership of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and the Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education (MCBRE), is designed to nurture student interest in national, state, and local government by engaging and inspiring students to become the next generation of Black and Hispanic leaders, through a combination of a mentoring relationship, peer-to-peer engagement and accountability, and interactive student debate.

Rising sophomores (current freshmen) from each high school, who hold a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better and are eligible based on the program criteria, will have the opportunity to apply via online application and be selected to participate in the Hispanic Caucus conference, tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 12, 2011, or the Black Caucus conference, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2011. Both conferences will be held at the Washington Convention Center.

Conference and transportation costs to and from designated pick-up and drop-off points will be covered. Detailed transportation information will be sent to selected students and posted on the Web. Student absences from school for the fall conference and spring reception are approved.

#### **Semester I:**

Prior to participating in the fall conference, students must—

- successfully complete the online application;
- be selected to participate by the review board comprised of MCBRE and MCPS;
- accept the nomination to participate in the program by returning the signed commitment form; and
- attend a preconference meeting to receive up-to-date information, meet with their fellow participants, and be introduced to their professional advisor, who has volunteered to work specifically with them throughout the program.

Attend the legislative conference

- After participating in the legislative conference, students will vote for two topics that they believe are the most important topics affecting their communities. These topics will be voted for on the day of the conference, and can be topics that were presented at the conference or appropriate outside issues. Students then will be assigned a position on the selected topic or issue and be placed into work groups of two to three students and one professional advisor.

Meet and Research

- Students meet three separate times with their assigned group and professional advisor to research and/or discuss the assigned position before the mock debate and Local Issues Forum. Students will be placed in groups that are geographically close to other group members and/or

their professional advisor. If a student cannot attend a meeting, a maximum of **one** meeting can be made up via teleconference.

### **Semester II:**

#### Participate in the Local Issues Forum

- Students must attend the Local Issues Forum with their professional advisor and other group members, and work with other students to defend their position by participating in a mock debate. At this event, students also will participate in discussions on youth-related bills before the Maryland General Assembly.

#### Attend the Congressional Reception

- Students completing all requirements are invited to attend, with one guest, a reception with Congressman Christopher Van Hollen and Congresswoman Donna Edwards (February/March date to be determined).

Please refer questions to Mrs. Karen L. Crawford, coordinator, Student Affairs, Department of Student Services, at 301-670-1419 or via e-mail at [Karen\\_L\\_Crawford@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Karen_L_Crawford@mcpsmd.org).

## **Detailed Information**

### **Application Process**

- On or before April 15, 2011, student completes the online application (Attachment B) at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/studentaffairs/sao/emergingleaders/index.shtm#application>.
- On or before April 29, 2011, the review board, comprised of representatives from MCBRE and MCPS, will notify selected students.
- Selected student must fax the signed commitment form (Attachment C) to Mrs. Crawford, at 301-670-1407 by the May 11, 2011, deadline. Students placed on the wait list will be notified if they are accepted to participate by May 16, 2011, and must return the signed commitment form by the May 27, 2011, deadline.

### **Congressional Hispanic Caucus Preconference meeting options** (student must attend one)

- Tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 31, 2011, 7:30–8:30 p.m., at John F. Kennedy High School, 1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902.
- Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 6, 2011, 6:00–7:00 p.m., at Gaithersburg High School, 314 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877.

### **Congressional Black Caucus Preconference meeting options** (student must attend one)

- Tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 31, 2011, 6:00–7:00 p.m., at John F. Kennedy High School, 1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902.
- Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 6, 2011, 7:30–8:30 p.m., at Gaithersburg High School, 314 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877.

**Congressional Hispanic Caucus Annual Legislative Conference**

- Tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 12, 2011, at the Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. Permission forms must be submitted by Thursday, September 8, 2011.

**Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference**

- Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2011, at the Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. Permission forms must be submitted by Monday, September 19, 2011.

**Topic research and group meetings with professional advisor**

- Students meet three separate times (October, November-December, and January) with their assigned group and professional advisor to research and/or discuss the assigned position before the February 6, 2012, mock debate and Local Issues Forum. Students will be placed in groups that are geographically close to other group members and/or their professional advisor. If a student cannot attend a meeting, a maximum of one meeting can be made up via teleconference.
- Students meet three times with their group and professional advisor for research/discussion of assigned position on topic and be ready to participate in a mock debate and Local Issues Forum.

**Local Issues Forum**

- On Monday, February 6, 2012, 6:30–8:30 p.m., at the Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850, students will participate in a mock debate on the assigned topic/position and take part in the discussion on several youth-related bills currently filed in the Maryland General Assembly.

**Congressional Reception**

- Semester II (February/March date to be determined)