



MEDIA CONTACT

Dawn Nielsen, Marketing & Public Relations Specialist
Bristol Development Authority
860-584-6190 | dawnnielsen@bristolct.gov

Janice Rustico, Literacy Coach
Northeast Middle School
860-584-7837 | janicerustico@bristolct12.org

Bristol Middle School Students Participate in Kids Speak Day at UConn School of Law

BRISTOL, CONN., June 5, 2019 – A total of 44 students in grades six through eight from Chippens Hill Middle School, Greene-Hills School, Northeast Middle School, and West Bristol School recently participated in the 2019 Kids Speak event which took place at UConn Law School in West Hartford, Conn. Kids Speak, first launched in 1993 by then UConn Law school students, Cheryl Sharp and Rai Thiesfield-Vann, is a day for students from Connecticut to come together and discuss topics related to civil and human rights. This forum raises students' consciousness regarding but not limited to diversity, school climate and culture, anti-bullying, equal protection, neighborhood isolation and housing, busing, and individuality. This is the sixth year that Bristol Public School students participated.

This year's event was coordinated by Cary Rubbo from West Bristol and Greene-Hills, Lindsay Revoir from Chippens Hill Middle School, Janice Rustico from Northeast Middle School, and was funded by Alan Theriault, Bristol Public Schools Citywide gifted teacher.

In order to participate in the event, the students had to write an essay on how human rights issues impact our communities and our country today. The essays have been submitted to the Commission on Human Rights & Opportunities at the State of Connecticut for a chance to be chosen to read their essay at the Capitol in Hartford.

The day included messages about equal rights and being yourself with speeches given by State Attorney General, William Tong and State Comptroller, Kevin Lembo. Students shared their ideas about how they would like to be treated with the other participants and then the State Attorney's office staff conducted small group activities with the students before they had a chance to network with students from all over Connecticut while eating lunch.

"Kids Speak makes you feel empowered, important, and included, and it gives you a chance to let your voice be heard." – Taylor Berube, Grade 8 Northeast Middle School

"Kids Speak is a truly inspirational event that convinced me I have a say in wordly issues and that I can make a difference." – Paige Murphy, Grade 8 Northeast Middle School

"Every year when we return from Kids Speak, the number one takeaway that students share is that they feel included and empowered. It is an amazing opportunity for our students." – Janice Rustico, Literacy Coach Northeast Middle School

“Kids Speak provides a forum for our young adolescent scholars to form and voice their position on civil and human rights. Our Bristol middle grades scholars have great insight and Kids Speak provides an opportunity for our students to share their thinking and advocate for what they believe is just.” – Catherine M. Carbone, Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent, Bristol Public Schools

See photos and captions attached.

Photos and Captions:



Students from Northeast Middle School and Greene-Hills School who participated in Kids Speak day at UConn Law School.



Bristol Public School students participated in Kids Speak day at UConn Law School in West Hartford recently. Top back row from left to right: Ari Pellot, Taylor Berube, Paige Murphy;

Front row from left to right: NoorAbbasi, Haley Kuehn, Jeane John, Aidan Tartarelli, Allison Aparo, Chris Brown, Cameron Donovan, Abigail Lodice.

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