



Quality education in a faith based environment

Union Catholic Students Participate in Martin Luther King Youth Leadership Conference

Union Catholic High School (Scotch Plains, NJ) participated in the Martin Luther King Youth Leadership Conference held at Ramapo College in Mahwah, NJ. Along with students from all over the state, 17 UC students were chosen as a result of their demonstration of leadership qualities inside the classroom as well as in their school community. Chosen participants included Brianna Blunt '12 and Carlos Gonzalez '10 of Newark; Kim Esquerra '12, Katherine Rivera '11 and Kevin Mukalel '09 of Union; Kevin Hamilton '12 of Metuchen; Katie Lubin '12 and Stephanie Walls '09 of Cranford; Jonathan Reidinger '12 of Watchung; Sean Sarra '11 and Alex Bricki '10 of Linden; Megan Tosato '11 of Mountainside; Shweta Gohil '10 and Connor Dick '09 of Edison; Aaron Pinkard '10 of Plainfield; Rey Lopez '10 of North Plainfield and Tim Connell '11 of Clark.

The day was designed to enhance the leadership skills of the students as well as inspire them to be future implementers of change through continuing their education. Through workshops focusing on various topics concerning today's youth such as self-acceptance and body image, continuing education, character development, civic/community education and workforce development, students were provided with information on bettering their communities as well as connecting with positive role models who can aid in their future aspirations. Students also had an opportunity to hear from Mr. Kevin C. Hudson, Director of External Affairs for *The Wight Foundation, Inc* in Newark, and New Jersey's Secretary of State, Nina Wells who encouraged them to recognize the high level of potential they possess and use that to make positive life choices. Secretary Wells stated, "Our mission is to empower our youth to embrace the ideals and philosophy of Dr. King to further advance his legacy of social justice for all Americans."

