

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Hartford Region

Contact:

Shannan Fields
YWCA Hartford Region
135 Broad Street
Hartford, CT 06105
ShannanF@ywc Hartford.org
(P) 860-525-1163 Ext. 117 (F) 860-543-8919

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

37 Young Women Begin the School Year More Empowered After Completing YWCA Hartford Region's YWLC Summer Institute

Hartford, CT- 37 young women, in grades 8-12, participated in YWCA Hartford Region's *Young Women's Leadership Corps (YWLC)* Summer Institute, a five-week program aimed at teaching them necessary 21st-century life skills as they prepare for the future.

In its 16th year, the YWLC Summer Institute partnered with organizations around the community to introduce the young women to possible careers as they are encouraged to recognize their self-worth and give back to the community. The girls participated in activities centered on healthy eating, etiquette, water safety, financial literacy, coding, debate and leadership.

Aetna, the YWLC Summer Institute sponsor, opened their doors to the young women and introduced them to personal branding, IT training, fitness, elevator pitches, mindfulness and community service. As a long standing sponsor, it is important to Aetna that the girls walk away with sound leadership lessons.

The program closed with a celebration of the teens during which they presented final projects honoring their past, present and future. Some women performed self-written monologues to late relatives and historical figures that have paved the way for success while others presented their personal elevator pitches. Friends, parents and supporters were treated to spoken word poetry and an empowerment dance. The young women were presented with certificates of completion in a powerful closing ceremony.

Thank you to all of the individuals and organizations who contributed to the success of the 2017 YWLC Summer Institute: the Aetna Summer Institute Planning Team and Aetna employees, Bahati Benjamin, Judy Casperson, D&L Catering, Trinene Davis, Patrina Dixon, Todd Fairchild, Janee' Folston, Shae Hill, Shakia Seabrook, Microsoft at Westfarms Mall and the Water Shed Association.

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Established in 1867, YWCA Hartford Region is the third oldest affiliate of YWCA, a women's membership movement dedicated to **eliminating racism and empowering women**. YWCA Hartford Region provides programs and services in the greater Hartford Region including child care, supportive housing, teen leadership development, racial justice awareness, financial literacy and economic empowerment. For more information, visit www.ywcahartford.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).