

Morristown - Hamblen County Teen Leadership Program History

1990-2001

- The Morristown Area Chamber of Commerce developed the High School Leadership Program in 1989 under the Chamber Presidency of Duggan Bradley and implemented the program in collaboration with the Hamblen County School System in the 1990-1991 school year.
- Senior Students applied anonymously and were selected by a MACC panel. 10 seniors each were chosen from East and West High Schools.
- Sessions were held during the school day. Students left class and travelled to the MACC for scheduled meetings or field trips.
- Due to concerns of students missing classes, the format was changed to hold sessions after class, in the evenings, on school holidays or on Saturdays. Attendance was negatively impacted.
- To increase accessibility and equity in the program, the MACC developed an application process. Guidance Counselors distributed and collected the applications and the Chamber established a selection committee. Grade Point Averages were verified by Guidance Counselors.
- Applications included a cover page with name & SSN; an anonymous selection process was developed for equity.
- The number of student participants was increased to 24 (12 from East/12 from West)
- Program content for High School Leadership remained consistent. Some topics changed from year to year, but for the most part, the sessions included community familiarization sessions, a team building exercise, and a graduation event.
- An optional individual community service project was instituted. Three scholarships of \$300 each were awarded based on the service project. Number of scholarships increased to 10 by 2001.



2002

- The community service project portion was eliminated, as were the scholarships.

2004

- The program was reorganized and expanded to include additional personal and leadership development skills.
- The community service element was reinstated as group projects instead of individual projects.
- A state government trip to Nashville was added as part of the program.
- Juniors were added to the program.
- MACC, Hamblen County School System and HC*EXCELL explored options for transitioning the student leadership program into an in-school class curriculum to increase student participation, consistency, teacher interaction, equity and to fulfill guidelines of the Tennessee Three Star Program.

2005

- HC*EXCELL, MACC and the Hamblen County School System joined together to develop a strategy for funding and transitioning the after school program into in-school curriculum classes at Morristown East and West High Schools.
- The Tuff Torq Corporation establish a \$50,000 Yasuyuki Yamaoka High School Leadership Fellowship fund under HC*EXCELL to support the transition and provide sustainability until the program could be sustained in the school system.

2007



- Hamblen County School System identified instructional codes for a Teen Leadership class, provided instructor funding and selected teachers for both high schools; HC*EXCELL paid for Flippen's "Capturing Kids Hearts" professional teen leadership instructor training, student materials, supplies and class expenses with funds from the Yasuyuki Yamaoka High School Leadership Fellowship account; and MACC assisted teachers in identifying business and industry leaders for site visits and programming.
- Cari Ashford (West High School) and Randy Greene (East High School) became the teachers for the first in-school High School Leadership Classes.

2008-2011

- Yasuyuki Yamaoka High School Leadership Fellowship provided funds to support Teen Leadership for both high schools through 2009.
- The Rotary AM Club of Morristown joined the funding partnership for 2009-2010 by providing a District Simplified Grant and the MACC assisted in funding the Teen Leadership Graduation Dinners.
- Alumni from the Chamber's Leadership Morristown Class chose as their Alumni Project, to partner with the High School Leadership Classes to inform students about local businesses by making in-class presentations and inviting students to their industries and workplaces.
- In 2009 the partnership provided funding for Cari Ashford and Walter Rudd of Morristown Hamblen West and Lisa Biery and Randy Greene, Morristown Hamblen East to attend Flippen Teen Leadership training. All four received their Teen Leadership Instructor Certifications and conducted the 2009 and 2010 classes.
- 2010 -2011 Tuff Torq Corporation and Colortech, Inc. provided funding for the High School Leadership program through donations to HC*EXCELL.
- 2011 Anthony Wooley became certified as a Flippen Teen Leadership Instructor at East High School. One class was taught at East and three at West.

2012-2013

- 2012 there were four classes of Teen Leadership; three classes at West and one at East. Teachers were Cari Ashford and Walter Rudd at West High School and Anthony Wooley at East High School.
- HC*EXCELL funders provide financial support for student manuals, Strengthquest Assessment Codes and the Nashville Governance trip.

2014-2017

- 2014-2015 HC*EXCELL contributors provided funding for one class at East High taught by Anthony Wooley and two classes at West High taught by Cari Ashford.
- December of 2015 Rachel Acuff was certified to teach the East High School Leadership Class. Cari Ashford taught three West High Classes. There was no trip to Nashville. New Teacher Curriculum and student guides were purchased.
- 2016-2017 Rachel Acuff taught two classes of High School Leadership at East High and Walter Rudd taught one class at West High.
- Summer of 2017 a review and evaluation of high school leadership program will be conducted.

