



Children's Network (CN)

Youth Learn Life Skills at 'Don't Judge Me' Event

HS Connection Staff

Forty young men attended the Don't Judge Me Young Men Conference event hosted by Children's Network on March 7 at San Bernardino Valley College to experience an afternoon filled with mentoring, learning and brotherhood.



The event provided the men with four workshops including representatives from Planned Parenthood to speak about healthy relationships; Men of Action, a mentoring program, to speak about the importance of proper dress and appearance; the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health to communicate about dignity and respect, and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department who voiced advice about the role of young men in the community.

During the morning of the event, a continental breakfast for the young men was served as Anthony Stone, a local comedian, began the event with humor to get the young men ready for their workshops.

Brandy Nelson, Mentoring Resource Coordinator for Children's Network, said the men seemed to have enjoyed the event.

"Quite a few even told me throughout the event that it was nice and thanked us for putting it on for them," Nelson said.

After the men interacted during the first two workshops, lunch was provided and some of the men won raffle prizes.

"The men seemed to enjoy lunch the most, then the prizes," Nelson said. "They were engaged during the workshops."

After lunch, the remaining two workshops took place and the day concluded. Although the Don't Judge Me Conference is the Children's Network Mentoring Task Force's first young men's conference, Nelson said it will continue to be an annual event.

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Children's Network of San Bernardino County concerns itself with at-risk children who are defined as minors who, because of behavior, abuse, neglect, medical needs, educational assessment, and/or detrimental daily living situations, are eligible for services from one or more of the member agencies of the Children's Policy Council.

The overall goal of Children's Network is to help at-risk children by improving communication, planning, coordination, and cooperation among youth-serving agencies.