GIANT STEP TEEN CONFERENCE
Inclusion, Harmony, Acceptance

WHAT: Giant Step Teen is a one-day teen summit of facilitated discussion groups. The conference exposes a diverse group of 300 students to the issues they share so they can uncover their similarities. Details in the Giant Step brochure.

WHEN: Tuesday, October 25, 2016
NEW Earlier Dismissal Time
8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Wayne State Student Center Ballroom
5221 Gullen Mall
Detroit, MI 48202

COST: FREE, includes pizza lunch.
Registration required.

Student Selection

Select five to eight of your 9th and 10th grade students, who have never attended Giant Step before and who meet the following criteria:

1. General Attributes: Giant Step encourages you to consider candidates not usually selected for special workshops or leadership roles. Try to nominate students from diverse academic, economic, religious and ethnic backgrounds. Consider the student who has great potential but may need extra support to move toward personal improvement and success. Also consider your group’s “thought leaders” who have the power to persuade other students, as well as students involved in the school newsletter or yearbook who could publish an article about their conference experience.

2. Personal Qualities: The student displays an open-minded, nonjudgmental attitude, has the ability to work with and show concern for others, and can represent your school or organization well.

3. Leadership Potential: With proper training and mentoring, the student has the potential to develop into an effective leader.

4. Respect: The student respects him or herself and also respects the boundaries and needs of others.

5. Responsibility: The student can be counted on to accept responsibility and fulfill commitments to self and others.

Teachers and counselors can receive 3 CEUs in Social Work or SCECHs (cost is $10) at our Education Workshop while students attend Giant Step. See flier in packet.
Giant Step Teen Conference

**Inclusion, Harmony, Acceptance**

**Why Send Students to Giant Step?**

Each year, hundreds of teens from dozens of schools meet at the annual Take a Giant Step Teen Conference. Public, private, charter and parochial schools – even home schools – from diverse districts across southeast Michigan send students to Giant Step. Our diverse students enter as strangers and leave as friends. Trained facilitators and 32 years of working with teens help us bridge the gaps between students to promote inclusion, harmony and acceptance.

And it’s all free.

Does attending Giant Step make a difference?

96% of our 2015 students report that talking with teens from different backgrounds was interesting and educational.

88% said they were able to talk about issues important to them.

96% said Giant Step was a positive experience and they recommend their school continue to participate.

Giant Step builds friendships. 81% of students told us they would stay in touch with the “new friends” they met at the conference.

**Students Say . . .**

“I liked the freedom to express my own views.”  
“Loved it!”

“Our group learned healthy ways to discuss opposing views.”

“We saw how people overcame challenges and differences in order to connect.”

“This was a fun experience.”

“Everybody is perfect in their own special way. Don’t judge.”

“Despite our backgrounds, we have plenty in common.”

Giant Step Teen Conference is hosted by the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child & Family Development at Wayne State University. Yearly research verifies that Giant Step increases self-responsibility and improves attitudes toward family, community, and different cultures, religions and ethnic groups.
Students Need Transportation and a Chaperone

**Giant Step does not provide transportation** to or from the conference. A responsible adult (teacher, advisor, counselor or parent) must also stay on the premises during the entire conference. All accompanying adults are provided lunch and can attend our educators’ workshop, which runs concurrently with the teen conference. **Register for 3 CEs in Social Work or 3 State Continuing Education Clock Hours (approval pending).** See separate flier.

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**Giant Step Registration Form**
Due by October 21, 2016  Please Print Clearly

Name of School or Organization: _________________________________________________

Your name and title: ____________________________________________________________

Your phone number: ________________________ Email: _____________________________

Name & phone of chaperone (if not you):___________________________________________

_____ I agree to the chaperone’s responsibilities.

_____ Attendees understand their image may appear in conference-approved photos or video.

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<th>Students’ First &amp; Last Name</th>
<th>Grade: 9 or 10</th>
<th>Gender: M or F</th>
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Email scan preferred to cheryldeep@wayne.edu  Subject line: Giant Step Registration
Or register online after June 1 at: http://mpsi.wayne.edu/calendar/index.php

If scanning not possible, mail to: Coordinator Cheryl Deep or Fax to: 313-664-2666
Merrill Palmer Skillman Giant Step
71 E. Ferry Street

Phone: 313-664-2607  Detroit, MI  48202