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Saturday, October 13, 2007

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Teens attend leadership training at Detroit Mercy

Santiago Esparza and Todd McInturf / The Detroit News

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DETROIT -- About 100 college-bound and high school-age young men attended a leadership conference Saturday at the University of Detroit-Mercy.

The conference was organized by the Columbus-based Leadership at Its Best organization, the university's leadership institute and the Nu Alpha Sigma chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity along with the Free Agents Corporation Foundation.

Participants engaged in role play, listened to speakers and broke off into workshops. Among the issues discussed were choosing the right career paths, living a healthy lifestyle and peaceful ways to handle conflict.

In one session, a former Ohio policeman Donald White, now vice president of the Columbus organization had some of the teens sit in chairs as he pretended he was an officer making a traffic stop. The goal of the exercise was to teach the teens not to be aggressive or disrespectful when dealing with officers, he said.

The conference has been held elsewhere in the United States but it was the first time it came to Detroit. Other cities that have hosted the conference include Dayton, Charlotte, Los Angeles and Minneapolis.

You can reach Santiago Esparza at (313) 222-2127 or sesparza@detnews.com.

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