

Educational Outcomes

At Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP the after-school venue has become an important context for implementing positive youth development principles. D2F builds upon the 40 measurable assets of young people identified by the Search Institute (2007), including support by parents or other adults, community service, involvement in extracurricular activity, academic goals, skill in making decisions, positive values, a positive view of one's own future, and social skills. By tailoring services to meet the needs and build on the assets of the individual, the D2F program model motivates girls to work toward achieving successful futures. This approach – linking prevention and development strategies – assists girls to achieve the success they desire through a successful transition into womanhood. Education is one of the five core values at D2F and increasing the proportion of girls ages 13-19 who complete high school and enroll in a post-secondary institution is a program goal. Through academic support and college access services, students are encouraged to pursue a post-secondary education as well as explore nontraditional careers. Programs such as FEMME TO STEM provide opportunities for girls to participate in educational workshops and activities which increase their knowledge and access to science-based careers. Listed below are some of the educational outcomes of various D2F programs



D2F Signature After-School Program

- Through D2F school advocacy services, red zone students (most at risk) demonstrated significant increase in school attendance and academic performance; while reductions were noted in school suspensions and failure notices.
- 82 % of current D2F participants will be first-generation college students upon post-secondary enrollment.
- Based on 2010 data, 83% of females who have completed the Demoiselle 2 Femme signature program have obtained a high school diploma and have enrolled in a post-secondary institution (9% are actively serving in the military). After enrollment, 78% have maintained college GPAs of 2.7 or higher. Girls who had prior exposure to at-risk behaviors (drugs, alcohol, tobacco usage, and sexual activity) reported a significant decline (from 38% to 9%) over a one year period.

Leadership College

- Pre survey results from the Summer Leadership Tour 2011 report the following: 38% of students were undecided regarding post-secondary attendance; 74% had never visited academic institutions outside the city of Chicago; 48% reported “strongly disagree” to the statement “I understand the benefits of a college degree;” and 34% reportedly “disagreed” with the statement “I plan to go to college after high school graduation.” Post survey results include: 5% were undecided regarding post-secondary attendance; 99% reported increased awareness in the importance of community service; 97% reported increased knowledge in the skills and attributes of good leadership; 100% reported “strongly agree” with the statement “I understand the benefits of a college degree;” and 97% reported ‘strongly agree’ with the statement “I plan to go to college after high school graduation.”

College Connection

- The College Connection program provides support services to D2F participants from their senior year in high school to their completion of a baccalaureate degree. Students receive scholarships, semester care packages, seminars, internships at D2F, professional guidance, mentorship and an annual “college soiree” and breakfast. Participants remain connected to D2F through the “Catalyst” newsletter, Facebook, and a monthly conference call to discuss challenges and resources needed. Since 2004, The College Connection program has provided over \$25,000 in academic scholarships, 37 internships, and supported over 220 young ladies in their completion of a bachelor's degree (30% have completed graduate or professional degrees). D2F college graduates have representation in the fields of education, technology, social services/social work, business administration, finance and law, as well as several medical students, two doctors and a dental surgeon.