

The **START** Conference

November 1, 2011

Dear Guidance Counselor:

**Marisa Clougher
(Holbrook, MA):**

"I loved the speakers.
Especially Mike Smith.
He made me laugh, and
he made me think."

**Lauren Steele
(Worcester, MA):**

"I loved the play. It was
so real, and it helped
everyone talk. Come to
think of it, we spent a lot
of time at START talking
about real things."

For more information:

Helen L. Fitzgerald
Executive Director
CASA / SLTP
1.800.600.7223

Once again, on **June 1st, 2nd, and 3rd**, The *START* Conference (*Students Taking Active Responsibility Today*) will take place on the Nichols College campus in Dudley, Mass., and **we are asking you to nominate one of your 9th graders** to apply for this opportunity of a lifetime.

Last year's program was a great success! We hosted over **120 delegates from 96 New England high schools**, and the closing ceremony with parents was particularly moving when the Co-Chairs of the Conference Laura and Danielle challenged everyone: "It's up to us to make a difference. It's up to us to care."

The entire program cost is just \$25 dollars to cover registration. In this three day residential experience, students receive all meals, lodging and materials, including a leadership handbook.

The selection process is easy! Just follow these simple steps:

1. Seek out and recognize a potential 9th grade leader by distributing the *START* Applications Worksheet to all 9th grade students.
2. After selecting a student representative, help that individual complete the *START* Registration Form.
3. Mail the *START* Registration Form with the registration fee of \$25 made out to "CASA" by **December 15th** to guarantee your student's spot in the program. You may fax the *START* Registration Form and separately mail the check to the address indicated.

Attached please find a brochure with testimonials about The *START* Conference.

Thank you for sending a participant. One trained student leader can positively impact your entire school and community.

The *START* Conference Team
NICHOLS COLLEGE and the **Student Leadership Training Program**

The *START* Conference

for youth leadership training

The ***START* Mission** is to value, acknowledge, motivate and cultivate young adults' potential for active leadership roles in their schools and communities.

***START* Vision**

As an educator, you know that student leaders in your classrooms today can affect great change. The ***START* Conference (Students Taking Active Responsibility Today)** will help motivate and develop future leaders from schools across New England.

***START* Purpose**

Rather than having students passively take notes while adults lecture, The *START* Conference is a unique 3-day program with a highly-interactive process. We introduce high school freshmen to motivational speakers from various sectors of the community.

***START* Expected Outcomes**

The *START* Conference has been designed to draw from the expertise of Nichols College and the Student Leadership Training Program (SLTP). We intend to create an experience for your 9th grade leader which will produce the following results:

- **Students learn to think positively** We motivate students by showing them that “how to think” can be just as important as “what to think.”
- **Students enhance their leadership skills** . By taking part in question-and-answer sessions, small group discussions, and thought-provoking exercises, the 9th graders come to better understand the true meaning of “active” leadership. Through our workshops, keynote speakers, and leadership simulation and goal setting exercises, they begin to identify and improve their own leadership strengths.
- **Students learn about free enterprise** . Delegates will take advantage of Nichols College resources at the forefront of business leadership (One in ten of Nichols alumni becomes a president, CEO or business owner.). Through exposure to leaders in business and education, students will get a clearer picture of what sustains our way of life and what must be done to preserve it.
- **Students meet other young leaders** . During The *START* Conference, students will discover that they are not alone in their desire to lead and to make their schools and communities better places. Meeting students who are similarly motivated from across Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island is a powerful and reaffirming experience.
- **Students are motivated to accept the challenge of leadership** . *START* students will be exposed to a vision of what can be. All aspects of The *START* Conference are geared to encourage the students to see leadership as a life-long goal worth pursuing. They will come away from The *START* Conference experience having learned that as individuals, they are important and that their thoughts and actions can make a difference.

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SOME COMMON QUESTIONS ANSWERED

- 1. What schools are eligible?**

Any diploma granting, accredited public or private school located in New England may nominate a student representative. All 9th graders are eligible and should be encouraged to apply. One primary representative and one alternate representative should be selected per school. If space permits, the alternates will be invited to attend.
- 2. When do I submit my representative's name (both primary and alternate).**

The guaranteed acceptance date is **December 15th, 2011**. Official *START* Registration Forms received after this date will be considered on a space available basis.
- 3. How do I submit the students names?**

Simply fill out the enclosed Official *START* Registration Form identifying your primary *and* alternate representatives and mail or fax it to:

The *START* Conference Registration
108 Observatory Way
Marshfield, MA 02050-4101
Fax: 1-781-837-1634
- 4. What Does the Conference Cost?**

Room and meals, plus all of the conference materials, are without cost to students, their parents, and their schools. The only charge is a \$25 registration fee. Nichols College, The Student Leadership Training Program, and our dedicated volunteers, supporting businesses, and cooperating organizations, will raise the funds needed to put on The *START* Conference, except for transportation to and from the conference site and the \$25 registration fee.
- 5. When Is the Conference?** The *START* Conference will be held **Friday, June 1, Saturday, June 2 and Sunday, June 3.**
- 6. Where Is the Conference Held?**

Nichols College will host the conference on its lovely New England campus located in the rolling hills of Dudley, Massachusetts.
- 7. When should I submit the alternate's name?**

You are asked to select an alternate representative at the same time you select your primary representative and to submit both names on the Official *START* Registration Form (See 3 above). If your primary representative is unable to attend The *START* Conference, please contact us immediately, so that we may make alternative arrangements.
- 8. What Additional Opportunities Will Become Available to the Delegates Upon Completion of the Conference?**

Many opportunities become available after a delegate completes the Conference, such as:
The SLTP Alumni Association: After the Conference, attendees may join the hundreds of other students who have successfully completed our youth leadership program in an active and vibrant Alumni Association. The Alumni Association continues the work of SLTP through community activities.
Citizenship in Service: After the *START* Conference, each delegate will be challenged to undertake a community service project.
- 9. Where Can I Get Additional Information about Nichols College and the Student Leadership Training Program?**

Visit our web site: <http://www.sltp.info/start.html>

For more information you can email: helen@sltp.info

<http://www.sltp.info/start.html>

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SELECTING YOUR *START* REPRESENTATIVE

Three easy steps ...

1. **Promote the Program**

Encourage all teachers affiliated with your 9th grade students to mention the program in their classes and distribute the *START* "Yes! I am Interested Form" included in this packet. Make an announcement to the student body. Only one student from each high school may attend, but all 9th graders should be encouraged to apply.

2. **Consider an Essay Competition (optional)**

Many schools use essays to sharpen the selection process. A sample essay topic is: *"In 75 to 100 words, please describe the most rewarding and challenging aspect of being a leader in our school and community."* This essay is for your use in selecting a representative and does not need to be submitted to Nichols College or Student Leadership Training Program.

3. **Select a *START* Representative**

Leadership ability cuts across race, ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic status. In other words, those with demonstrated leadership ability, or potential, can come from anywhere, and *all* groups should be considered in selecting your student to attend the 2012 *START* Conference.

You may choose to appoint a school committee to select the best representative for your school. In general, multiple criteria should be employed in making your selection - i.e., more than one factor or leadership quality. One alternate should be selected and submitted as well.

4. **Fill out and send in the Official *START* Registration form by December 15, 2011**

Send only the enclosed "Official" *START* Registration Form and the \$25 registration fee. Please retain a copy for your own records.

Mail: **The *START* Conference Registration
108 Observatory Way
Marshfield, MA 02050-41 01**

Fax: 1-781-837-1634

Please be patient. Delegate registration packets will be mailed in April!

<http://www.sltp.info/start.html>

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YES! I AM INTERESTED FORM FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY



Dear 9th Grader:

Are you ready to fine-tune your leadership skills with other leaders from high schools throughout New England?

One freshman from this high school will have an opportunity to attend **The *START* Conference for youth leadership training** at Nichols College in Dudley, Massachusetts, on **June 1st, June 2nd and June 3rd**. And it could be you!

The Conference is a three-day weekend leadership program where you will make new friends, learn some new skills and have fun. **This year's theme is: Our journey to discover!**

You'll hear motivational speakers, learn how to set goals, have give-and-take discussions about a variety of current and critical topics, stay overnight in a college dorm room, have some delicious meals, and graduate with a certificate of achievement. The only charge for all the meals, lodging, and materials, including a Leadership Handbook, is a \$25 registration fee.

You will find the 2012 *START* Conference a fantastic, life-motivating experience. Complete this form as soon as possible and return it to your guidance counselor or principal to express your interest in representing your school.

Check it out: www.sltp.info/start.html

Yes! I am interested in attending The *START* Conference for youth leadership training!

Student's Full Name Signature _____

Homeroom Teacher _____

Date _____

**June 1, 2 and 3
OFFICIAL START
REGISTRATION FORM**

Submit your school's representative on this form by
December 15, 2011

Please retain a copy of this form for your records

Enclose check for \$25 payable to: **CASA**

School _____

PRIMARY Representative Information

Name _____ Sex _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I agree to abide by all of the rules and regulations established by the officials of The **START** Conference. Further, I will commit myself to being a worthy representative of my school and community by contributing my best efforts towards the success of the program.

Representative Signature _____

Parent or Guardian Information

Mother or Father's name _____

Home phone _____ Business phone _____

Title/employer _____

Email _____

ALTERNATE Representative Information

Name _____ Sex _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I agree to abide by all of the rules and regulations established by the officials of The **START** Conference. Further, I will commit myself to being a worthy representative of my school and community by contributing my best efforts towards the success of the program.

Representative Signature _____

Parent or Guardian Information

Mother or Father's name _____

Home phone _____ Business phone _____

Title/employer _____

Email _____

School Information

Official School Contact Person _____

Principal _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

- Only one 9th grade primary and one alternate representative per school may be selected
 - The student representative must be able to attend for the **ENTIRE** Conference (no exceptions!)
- Mail to: The **START** Conference Registration
c/o Dr. Jim Fitzgerald
108 Observatory Way
Marshfield, MA 02050-4101
- Or Fax to: 781.837.1634
(you may fax form and then send check by mail)