



News Release **For Immediate Release**

United Way Fox Cities

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Teen Symposium to be held February 16th, 2016

United Way Fox Cities and the YMCA of the Fox Cities announce that Teen Symposium 2016 will be held on February 16. Teen Symposium is a youth empowering leadership event. This year's theme is "Be Your Own HERO: Honesty Empathy Respect Open-Mind." Many new leadership activities, motivational guest speakers and a community resource fair are planned for the Teen Symposium, at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. Teen Symposium 2016 brings together over 350 high school students and over 40 committed adults in an effort to build better schools and communities through leadership development and community engagement.

Some of the special events planned for Teen Symposium 2016 are HERO inspired activities, new guest speakers in the morning and afternoon, a Community Resource Fair, and various photo projects to promote our event with the hashtag #TeenSym16.

Guest speaker in the morning is Mary Simonis: Combining her skills as a six year military veteran, branch director of the downtown Appleton Boys & Girls Club and leadership talent for her own company *Resilient Redhead*, Mary is a dynamic speaker. The afternoon keynote will be delivered by Brian Anderson: Brian has been a youth speaker for over 10 years and he knows how to relate to students. He comes from the positive approach with personal stories and examples to help encourage students to make better "Life Choices."

Participating schools include Appleton East, Appleton North, Appleton West, Brillion, Fox Valley Lutheran, Freedom, Hortonville, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Little Chute, Menasha, Neenah, New London, Seymour, Shiocton, St. Mary Central, Winneconne, Xavier and Youth GO.

Teen Symposium is sponsored by United Way Fox Cities and YMCA of the Fox Cities. Additional help has come from the Volunteer Center of East Central Wisconsin, and the Teen Symposium Planning Committee.

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