APPLETON — Hundreds of area high school student gathered in Appleton Tuesday, in an effort to become leaders in their schools.

The teen symposium is sponsored by the United Way and the YMCA of the Fox Cities.

It featured guest speakers and a community resource fair.

Students say learning how to be a leader helps shape their future success.

"Leadership drives the community. It drives a lot of things. I think it's important because without leaders, nothing would get done," said Little Chute High School student, Thomas Hermsen,

This year's theme was “Be Your Own HERO: Honesty, Empathy, Respect, Open-Mind.”

Students from 19 different schools across the Fox Valley attended the event.