

Future Leaders Network (and Music in Action)

Middle and High School

The Program

Future Leaders Network (FLN) is an experiential training program, designed to teach leadership, teamwork, and community service skills to middle and high school students. Its mission is to create a safe and healthy school environment where all members of the community can flourish. The training year consists of eight full days of interactive sessions, where heterogeneous team members are involved in needs assessment, challenges, leadership skills training and practice. The culminating performance-product for each team is the *Action Project*—an undertaking in response to school's prominent needs and which is likely to result in school wide improvement. Parents are offered an opportunity to discuss their child's involvement with FLN throughout the training period. FLN trainers continually seek to refine their knowledge and skills through ongoing professional development.

Music in Action (MusA) has grown out of the FLN program, dedicated to promoting music education and career development. MusA students follow the same programmatic requirements as FLN, guided by lead trainers and music industry professionals. The culminating product is a Music in Action Career Day and Concert performed for a large audience, workshops, and marketing of a student-produced CD, whose sales benefit the Food Bank of Western NY.

Results

Over a two-year period, participating students have demonstrated year-to-year growth in leadership skills, facilitation of small groups, teambuilding and project development skills. Qualitative feedback from students and teachers suggest long-term benefits of FLN character development, social and psychological maturation, self-efficacy, and resilience.



Learning Standards

Career Development and Occupational Studies: (3a) demonstrate mastery of foundation skills and competencies essential for success in the workplace.

Health, Physical Education & Home Economics: (2) acquire the knowledge and ability necessary to create and maintain a safe and healthy environment.

Contact

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