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### **Press Release:** For Immediate Release May 22, 2008

On May 10, 2008, more than 400 students attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Multicultural Student Leadership Conference presented by Diversity Awareness Initiative for Students (DAIS). More than fifty-seven schools were represented during the day, with mostly independent and some parochial and public school students attending the day long event at The Fieldston School. The conference's theme, "Reviving Paralyzed Minds" encouraged participants to evaluate and process discussion points and cultural concepts presented in the 14 workshops offered during the day. Workshop topics included: \* Mixed Relationships\*, \*Unable to be Disabled\*, \* I forgot, but then I was reminded\*, \*Politics\*, and \* You're not\_\_\_\_\_ enough! \*, to name a few. Students in grades 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> had the option to attend two workshops, participate in a group activity, be entertained during a talent show, have dinner and end the day with a party.

The Fieldston School, promoting its strong and comprehensive efforts to encourage diversity and inclusion hosted this event. Randy Slaughter, Fieldston's Diversity Coordinator commented on the impressive student interest in the conference, and other schools, like Packer Collegiate Institute, Rye Country Day School, Riverdale Country School, Nightingale-Bamford School, Convent of the Sacred Heart – Greenwich and Collegiate School, to name a few schools, had commendable student representation.



Pictures taken by Ken Marable

Many students evaluated the activities of the day and some of the comments answering the question of "What was the most valuable thing you learned today?" included:



"be myself", " not all guys are shallow and there is no such thing as ' good hair' ", "that we should learn to love one another no matter what race, size and looks", " that I am not alone", "I learned about racism and problems of other cultures", "racial profiling sucks", " what men really think".

Joan Marable, Executive Director of DAIS stated that: "We recognize that promoting diversity and encouraging inclusion is not always the most popular thing to do. However, during the school year various independent schools partnered with the students and DAIS, and provided a monthly forum for students to meet and discuss issues and improve human relations within our communities and our society at large. Hosting the annual conference is a



huge undertaking and we appreciate The Fieldston School's ongoing commitment to diversity.

Get more information about DAIS and find out about the next monthly meeting at [www.daisorg.org](http://www.daisorg.org)

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