



2018-19 Youth Governance Program Evaluation Report

Youth Governance Program (YGP)

The Youth Governance Program (YGP) provides an opportunity for high school youth to serve on six standing Dane county board committees. The program offers an opportunity for youth to experience local government while bringing youth voice to community issues and fostering the development of confident, capable and independent leaders for the next generation.

Evaluation

A retrospective pre/post survey was administered and completed by 11 members (n=11) of the 2018-2019 YGP cohort at the end of their one year appointment. The survey included 12 statements centered around civic engagement and leadership skills. Youth self-rated their ability before and after YGP using a scale of 1-5, with 1 for strongly disagree/no ability, and 5 for strongly agree/excellent ability.

| Question | Pre (average) | Post (average) |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| I am knowledgeable about Dane County Government | 2.82 | 4.45 |
| I am aware of local issues that affect Dane County | 2.91 | 4.27 |
| I can talk knowledgeably with others about local issues | 3.09 | 4.36 |
| I can be a resource to people in Dane County | 2.91 | 4.09 |
| I feel a strong connection to Dane County | 3.09 | 4.27 |
| I have a useful role in the community | 3.64 | 4.45 |

In addition, students provided input on the following questions:

What has been the most important thing you have gained from participation in YGP?

"I have learned how much I really love politics and how passionate I am about it."

"A greater awareness of how I can get involved in my community and in government."

"Being able to know first hand what's happening in my community."

"Knowledge about local government and understanding of how much a difference local government and individual voices can make."

What is one thing you are most proud of that happened during or because of YGP this year?

"I wrote a resolution that will go through the county board."

"I am proud of myself for learning more about my county and my community throughout the last year."

"Going to a government budget meeting and speaking before many people and mentors about a resolution on stewardship and food equity in schools."

"I am proud of the work my committee did during the budget process to pass thoughtful and important budget items."

"Being a part of something bigger than myself, and putting my input in on large discussions."