

To: Facilitators, Administrators, and Sponsors  
From: Dr. Ed Hightower and Bob Daiber  
Date: March 2, 2016  
Subject: MJCHF and Lewis & Clark Student Summit - Conversation Toward a Brighter Future

Please find the following:

1. White paper concept for "Conversation Toward a Brighter Future." You may use this document when discussing this project with the media, school boards, and other school employees. (Find below)
2. Links to various news articles regarding the Summit.
3. Link to Flickr to access pictures from the Summit. There will be many more pictures from the Summit.
4. We are creating a new public tab on our main page called "Brighter Future" that may be accessed to learn more about "Conversation Toward a Brighter Future." This tab should be operational by Tuesday, March 8.
5. We will continue to use [mjchf.org/brighterfuture](http://mjchf.org/brighterfuture) to post information to assist you with your project and to answer questions that you may have moving through your project.

Below are links to three (3) positive articles regarding our youth "Conversation Toward a Brighter Future" Summit held on February 23rd and 25th.

<http://www.riverbender.com/articles/details/students-leave-summit-at-mjcfh-inspired-to-make-difference-in-schools-communities-11679.cfm>

[http://www.theintelligencer.com/local\\_news/article\\_d44ef420-e0a5-11e5-8340-13b04df29fce.html](http://www.theintelligencer.com/local_news/article_d44ef420-e0a5-11e5-8340-13b04df29fce.html)

<http://thetelegraph.com/news/78661/student-summit-addresses-school-challenges>

Pictures of student participants during the Summit:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mjchfoundation/albums>

To find out more information about the MJCHF, individuals are encouraged to visit [www.mjchf.org](http://www.mjchf.org), Instagram @mjchfoundation, Twitter



*Mannie Jackson*  
CENTER FOR THE  
HUMANITIES  
FOUNDATION

## Conversation Toward a Brighter Future

The "Conversation Toward a Brighter Future" is occurring as a solution to the negative discourse that is taking place across the country among our national leaders. As a result of their behavior, our world is becoming increasingly polarized. We must rely on the future leaders of this nation, our youth, to begin the conversation toward ways we can make this country better.

The Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities and Lewis & Clark Community College are partnering with the Regional Superintendent and Madison County to support a youth driven "Conversation Toward a Brighter Future." A summit was held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> with over 200 middle school and high school student participants holding discussions around the MJCHF four pillars - Respect, Dignity, Understanding and Forgiveness. Students were encouraged to think outside their comfort zones and consider how we must treat each other if we are to exist as a thriving society.

Participants are now working in school teams to identify and research issues and create a plan that yields positive results reflecting the MJCHF four pillars. Plans must have measurable outcomes and offer the ability to be replicated by other schools and communities. Questions that must be answered include: What are the consequences if students, teachers, administrators and staff fail to embrace respect, dignity, understanding and forgiveness? How can the four pillars result in a better future for our schools, communities and country?

Students may earn up to \$5,000 for their school to fund their two-year research project. Project proposal must include a statement describing a problem and solutions that benefits their school or community. If the project proposal is approved, students will be awarded a fellowship grant for the implementation of their school research project. Students will then present an assessment and best practices in May 2017 and those selected will receive a grant of \$1,000 for year two.

To find out more information about the MJCHF, individuals are encouraged to visit [www.mjchf.org](http://www.mjchf.org), Instagram @mjchfoundation, Twitter @mjch\_foundation (#mjchfbrighterfuture) as well as the MJCHF Flickr and Facebook page and the Riverbender.com.