



**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MIDDLESEX DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
40 THORNDIKE STREET CAMBRIDGE MA 02141**

MARTHA COAKLEY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Tel: 617-679-6500  
Fax: 617-225-0871

**Contact: Emily LaGrassa/Melissa Sherman  
(617) 679-6522**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 20, 2006**

**MIDDLESEX DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND  
MIDDLESEX PARTNERSHIPS FOR YOUTH, INC. HOST  
YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON BULLYING**

**WESTON** – On Tuesday, March 21, the Middlesex District Attorney's Office and Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc. (MPY) will host a Middlesex Youth Leadership Conference for middle school students. The conference, called "Doin' the Right Thing!," will be presented by Deana's Fund.

The conference will teach students how to define bullying and gender harassment, develop empathy and identification with the target, reach out to friends and classmates who are victims of bullying and harassment, recognize abuse by girl bullies, and know when and how to seek help from caring adults.

The "Doin' the Right Thing!" program is a performance for students, created to reflect episodes of real-life bullying and harassment in their school and community. In the performance, students are shown the verbal, non-verbal, and physical behavior involved in bullying situations, and they observe positive role modeling when the main character decides to take a stand and do the right thing. The interactive half-hour after-show discussion features the three actors who help students process and reinforce the educational points in the play.

Deana's Fund is an innovative, arts-based organization that develops and produces educational theatre and other programs for diverse audiences to promote healthy relationships among peers, partners and families, and to strengthen communities. For more information, please visit [www.deanasfund.org](http://www.deanasfund.org).

Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc. (MPY) is a non-profit organization established in 1988 by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office and ten school districts to foster communication on school-related legal issues relating to substance abuse and violence. Through Project Alliance, MPY's primary initiative, the non-profit provides prevention and intervention resources, as well as training and programming to Middlesex school districts and communities

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using a combination of educational outreach, technical support, and community-based strategy development to address a variety of youth health and safety issues. MPY now includes over 60 member school districts. For more information on Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc. and Project Alliance, please visit [www.projectalliance.org](http://www.projectalliance.org).

The Middlesex Youth Leadership Conference will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2006, at Regis College in Weston, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The conference attendees included approximately 120 middle school students from a number of Middlesex communities, including students from:

- W.L. Chenery Middle School (Belmont)
- Hanscom Middle School
- Hopkinton Middle School
- John Glenn Middle School (Bedford)
- Henry J. Robinson Middle School (Lowell)
- Stoklosa Middle School (Lowell)
- Arthur D. Healey Middle School (Somerville)
- John W. McDevitt Middle School (Waltham)
- Stony Brook School (Westford)

**Note: The following portions of this training will be open to the media:**

***9:00 – 9:10 a.m. Attitudes and Beliefs: A Game***

***9:10 – 9:30 a.m. Defining Bullying and Harassment: Break-Out Groups***

***9:30 – 10:00 a.m. “Doin’ The Right Thing!” (Performance)***

***10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Introduction of Skits to students – Ground Rules/Group Selection, Break-Out Groups write and rehearse skits***

**If you are interested in attending, please contact the Press Office prior to this event.**

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