



Building Responsible Individuals through Dialogue, Giving, & Engaging

Project B.R.I.D.G.E. is the first program erected under Bridging the Gap of Central Arkansas. Not to be confused with UAMS' program with a similar name, Bridging the Gap of Central Arkansas was founded in 2015 as a result of the desire to intimately connect with the communities of central Arkansas and aid in bridging the gap in five keys areas: literacy, community awareness and involvement, health and wellness, workforce and economic development, and poverty. The organization's service approach is "meet people where they are." With the knowledge that progress cannot occur within each group of individuals and communities using the same services and methods, this program was developed with the goal to build up responsible individuals who may otherwise fall at the wayside.

WHO

**LRSD AND NLRHS
YOUTH AGES 14—18**

WHERE

**MCCLELLAN* LR CENTRAL
JA FAIR* PARKVIEW
HALL* NLR***

GOAL

- Provide A Healthy, Safe Environment
 - Foster High Expectations for Youth
 - Foster Consistent And Positive Relationships With Adults, Peers and Authority Figures
 - Support Healthy Behavior & Physical Well-Being
 - Strengthen Academic Skills and Performance
 - Support Exploration of Interests and the Development of Skills and Creativity
 - Support Youth Leadership Development
 - Promote Community Service, Engagement, & Involvement
 - Promote Respect And Appreciation For Diversity
- As a result:
- Youth Have Opportunities to Participate in Small Groups
 - Youth Have Opportunities to Act As Peer Mentors
 - Youth Have Opportunities to Partner with Adults and Other Organizations
 - Youth Have Opportunities to Set Goals and Make Plans
 - Youth Have Opportunities to Make Choices Based on Their Interests
 - Youth Have Opportunities to Develop a Sense of Belonging

METHOD

- Creating a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) in each school made up of four students from each grade (9th, 10th, 11th & 12th) who are recommended by counselor, principal, or teacher. This group will represent its class and give us insight and knowledge as to the real, major issues that the students are facing on a day to day basis in and outside of school
- Using the data obtained from the YAB, we will research, plan, and execute program sessions that will focus on the issues and promote our overall goals as described in the goals section. We will also use the results from youth interest inventories. This will be repeated each year.

WHEN

- Two to Three Times per Semester beginning January 2016
- Youth Advisory Boards to begin formation Fall 2015
- Monthly Opportunities for Community Service Projects

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