QUESTION #2
Another goal of the Kenosha County Youth In Governance program is that the program would provide youth with skills, knowledge and experiences to prepare them for future leadership opportunities. Do you feel the YIG program accomplished this goal? Why?

“Yes, I feel that YIG accomplished its goal. This is because I felt that my opinions were mattered, and I should have been able to participate intelligently in the discussions. Part of that includes the ability to be able to speak my opinions, and I’m extremely grateful for that.” - Ryan Joseph

“I believe working in a group is an invaluable skill to learn and every Youth in Governance member improves in that aspect. Being part of a committee, Youth in Governance members learn how to conduct meetings, how to express cogent ideas, how to view issues from a variety of perspectives, and how to become a better public speaker. These skills aren’t unique to a single career; these are life skills that I will definitely carry on for the rest of my life.” - Matt Młwečko

“I feel YIG accomplished this goal. I have improved my verbal and questioning skills. I feel more confident talking to adults and politicians, because I have now worked with them and have experienced the law process firsthand.” - Kate Gerau

QUESTION #3
What has been the most important thing you have gained from participation in the Kenosha County Youth In Governance program?

“Just the ability to understand just the workings of county government, my county! Everything we hear on the news about Washington and Madison affects us at the county level too. I feel like I’m in the loop when it comes to government now.” - Katie Yarger

“The most important thing the Youth in Governance has given to me is a greater connection to and awareness of Kenosha County and its units of government, functions, and structure. It has given me an enhanced understanding of the operation of government on the local and county level, which is ultimately more important to the community.” - Tyler Derginer

“The most important thing is definitely the fact that I now know how much the leadership of Kenosha truly works for the citizens of the county. It is so great knowing that I have been living in a place that is governed by leaders who truly care about their constituents.” - Alice Wei

“Knowledge! From the specific issues facing the board to national issues, I really learned how to apply what I’m learning at school to what I learn in board meetings.” - Haley Egle

“YIG has taught me to be a more active member of the Kenosha community. It has opened my eyes to the decisions being made that affect the daily life of members in the community, including myself. I feel less apathetic and more involved in my own life and in my future. I have the power to make a difference, and try to stay updated on current events.” - Jenna Czeszewski

Kenosha County Youth in Governance
Kenosha County UW-Extension
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262-857-1945 Fax # 262-857-1998

Kenosha County Youth in Governance is a program of Kenosha County UW-Extension in partnership with the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors. University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating. An EEO/AA employer. University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX, and American with Disabilities (ADA) requirements.
Kenosha County Youth In Governance Members

2010 – 2011

Stephanie Althoff  
Finance

Dustin Beth  
Legislative

David Capelli  
Finance

Jenna Ciszewski  
Administration

Tyler Derginer  
Land Use

Elizabeth Dumez  
Highway & Parks

Katherine Dumez  
Joint Services

Haley Egle  
Joint Services

Jasmine Galindo  
Building & Grounds

Kate Gerou  
Building & Grounds

Kyle Henry  
Land Use

Megan Jekot  
Human Services

Ryan Joseph  
Human Services

Emily Kenney  
Judiciary & Law

Matthew Mleczko  
Extension Education

Jacob Trione  
Highway & Parks

Alice Wei  
Judiciary & Law

Katie Yarger  
Administration

Rachel Zalaznik  
Legislative

Heather Zons  
Extension Education

EVALUATION AND IMPACT
Near the end of their term, all Youth In Governance members were given the opportunity to complete a retrospective evaluation. Quantitative information about civic engagement and leadership skill development are highlighted in TABLE B and TABLE C. Qualitative information is also shared through direct quotes from youth in response to three specific questions.

### TABLE B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% of Youth Reporting No Change</th>
<th>% of Youth Reporting 1 Unit of Change</th>
<th>% of Youth Reporting 2 or &gt; Units of Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am knowledgeable about Kenosha County Government</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am aware of local issues that affect Kenosha County</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My opinion can make a difference in the community</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am interested in politics</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have a useful role in the community</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel a strong connection to Kenosha County</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% of Youth Reporting No Change</th>
<th>% of Youth Reporting 1 Unit of Change</th>
<th>% of Youth Reporting 2 or &gt; Units of Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I can participate in group discussions with adults</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can speak confidently before a group of adults</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can see issues from multiple perspectives</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can share new ideas with others</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can talk knowledgeably with others about local issues</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can be a resource to people in Kenosha County</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### QUESTION #1
One goal of the Kenosha County Youth In Governance program is to create an environment that is conducive to the positive development of youth voice and youth engagement. Do you feel the YIG program accomplished this goal? Why?

“I do feel the Youth in Governance program has accomplished this environment; at least, from my point of view. It provides a useful and thoughtful way for people of my age to find out about Kenosha government and for us to access our right to speak up early on. I doubt I would be able to find a place that does this somewhere else.” - Jasmine Galindo

“Absolutely, YIG gives a voice to youth both in a professional, adult setting but also in a government setting. It immensely strengthens leadership skills as well.” - Stephanie Althoff

“As a current member of the program, my voice is heard and taken into consideration. My fellow committee members promote my participation during meetings, which allows me to feel more comfortable and mature. I feel that I am able to develop into a knowledgeable young adult because of how much I learn and how I am treated during my meetings. My fellow committee members treat me with the highest level of respect.” - Megan Jekot