

History Into Action



The Holocaust Memorial Resource
& Education Center of Florida

2023 Take Action Institute Conference
PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Hello!

This is **Kayley Klatt** and **Stebrina Kisingiri**. We are the co-chair student leaders of the **Take Action Institute** Board 2022-2023. The Take Action Institute Conference serves as a collaborative space for students, activists, community partners and educators to share knowledge. The Take Action Institute Conference prepares students to advocate in their communities against all forms of prejudice and bigotry inspired by the powerful testimonies and lessons from the Holocaust.

The Take Action Institute Conference allows voices like ours to speak up against bias and bigotry in passionate and informed ways. It starts by us sharing our stories and then moving our experiences into transformative action. It is vital that we prepare and inspire a new generation of leaders to stand up for a more equitable and safe society.

In January 2022, the hard work and diligence of student planners paid off in the hosting of the inaugural Take Action Conference which was created to provide the next generation with the skills and resources needed to promote and work for equity and inclusion. This weekend-long conference had about 350 youth attendees from 50 high schools and colleges.

Attendees reported increased learning and inspiration and were grateful for the network time with local community partners and their peers. They were moved by speakers like Eva Schloss, Holocaust survivor and Anne Frank's step-sister, and inspired by facilitators like Representative Ana Eskamani- as just a few examples.

Institute participants have access to resources, mentors, and a supportive network. Our work is for students and led by students, and will change our communities for the better.

Additionally, we have been hosting educational action forums on current issues like Ukraine and the current state legislation on the table in Florida.

We ask you to take action too and consider supporting the 2023 Take Action Conference. With your support, student leaders like us and many others can expand our impact and create a more inclusive society.

— Kayley & Stebrina



Kayley Klatt
Rollins College
Class of 2023



Stebrina Kisingiri
Stetson University
Class of 2022

TOO MANY PEOPLE, INCLUDING US AS INDIVIDUALS, FACE INCIDENTS OF BIGOTRY

ADL's most recent *Audit of Antisemitic Incidents in the United States* recorded more than 2,100 acts of assault, vandalism and harassment, an increase of 12 percent over the previous year. This is the highest level of antisemitic incidents since ADL's tracking began in 1979. The year included five fatalities directly linked to antisemitic violence and another 91 individuals targeted in physical assaults.

In a 2020 Pew survey four in ten Black and Asian adults reported increase racial tension; and across the country, organizations tracking racial targeting and hateful attacks reported surges in hateful incidents.

Take Action Institute Conference



Research shows that Gen Z knows they can have a meaningful impact in their own communities, but they aren't always given the tools to become active and engaged citizens.

The Take Action Institute Conference seeks to provide resources to prepare the next generation of leadership.

Through the power of testimonies and lessons from the Holocaust, the conference engages high school and college students to develop and build necessary skills and attitudes to be confident changemakers.

The students of the Take Action Institute Conference work in the following equity and justice networks where they get real world experience. They work with their peers, community partners, mentors, and educators to support current community projects and create their own.

The pillars for this year's conference include:

- Historical Culture and Identity
- Bias and Bigotry Reduction
- Citizenship and Civic Engagement
- Education and Youth Empowerment



"If something doesn't sit right with how the world works, do something to fix it, don't just talk about it, do it."

— 2022 Take Action Institute Conference Attendee

Take Action Institute Conference



In January 2022, TAI held the first annual Take Action Institute Conference for local youth 15-25. The energy was palpable and the content was impactful. The two-day conference inspired students to learn skills, meet and learn from others, tell their story and engage in community engagement.

There were dynamic Keynotes from speakers who have started national and global movements and are experts in the areas of youth empowerment and equity and inclusion. For example, students heard from local and international leaders including **Prashan Divisser**, founder of the **Global United Youth** movement, spoken word artist **Joe Davis**, and national partners including the **USC Shoah Foundation** and **Interfaith Youth Corps**.



Kenote Speaker
Joe Davis



An interview with **Eva Schloss**, Holocaust Survivor, author and step-sister of Anne Frank, closed the conference.

Students received **tangible tools** they can use to act effectively and consciously in their own communities. Additionally, students visited the community connections center where representatives from organizations aligned with the equity and justice networks shared their missions and services. Some of these included: **QLatinX**, **City Year**, the **Hope Community Center**, **Teach for America**, and **Florida Rising**. For some, these community connections lead to volunteerism, internships and full-time jobs.



"I think the overall experience was the most valuable. I feel that I have grown as a person in this one day."

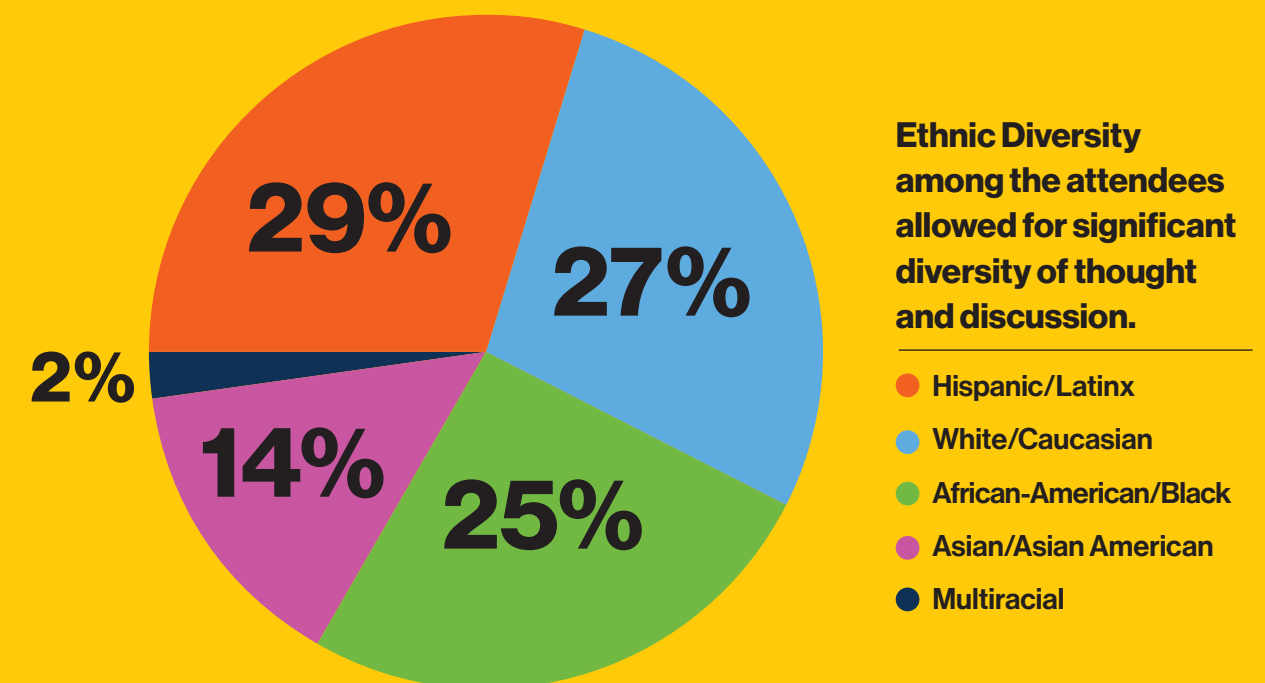
— 2022 Take Action Conference Attendee

BY THE NUMBERS

The student leaders who organized the Take Action Institute Conference set a goal of **400** students.

415
STUDENTS
REGISTERED

340
ATTENDED
*Numbers impacted
by COVID*



Student attendees came from over

50

Colleges and High Schools in Central Florida



The Take Action Institute Conference gave students hope, inspiration, confidence, and skills that will help them become change agents.

More than
90%
of
attendees

Felt the conference gave them **hope** that their actions can make a change

Felt the conference increased their **confidence** in their ability to make change

Felt that they **understood** the mission of the Holocaust Center and its commitment to social justice education

Felt that they developed an understanding of the **value of testimony** in supporting community activism work

“For me, the most impactful takeaway from the conference was learning how the use of your network can help you enact change in every way possible. The change starts with you, and grows with us.”

– 2022 Take Action Conference Attendee

50%
INCREASE

In students who “strongly agree” that they **identify** as change agents

65%
INCREASE

In students who “strongly agree” that they are **confident** in their ability to make change

119%
INCREASE

In students who “strongly agree” they can **articulate** what it means to be a change agent

After the Take Action Institute Conference, participants were more likely to identify as **change agents** and better able to explain their definition of what it means to be a change agent.

Nearly
50%

of survey respondents indicated that they want to serve in a **leadership capacity** for the Take Action Institute



Join us.

History Into Action

The 2023 conference will be held October 21st from 9 am – 6:30 pm at the Hilton Orlando.

Help support a Take Action Conference Student Scholarship | \$400 pays for individual student participants to attend the conference.

We ask you to take action by supporting the 2023 Take Action Institute Conference. With your support, student leaders clarify their values, expand their impact, and create a more inclusive society.

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:

Taylor Warner-Valdez
Development Manager
O: 407.628.0555 | ext. 227
M: 951.760.1786
E: Twarner@holocaustedu.org

Visit us online at takeactioninstitute.org

OUR MISSION

The Take Action Institute Conference seeks to bring together a collaborative community of youth and organizational partners to address important issues.

We are guided by the lessons of the Holocaust, especially the role that ordinary people can play in bringing about extraordinary change.

The mission of the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida is to use the history and the lessons of the Holocaust to build a just and caring community free of antisemitism and all forms of prejudice and bigotry.

For more information visit holocaustedu.org