

Students and Faculty Attend NAIS Mid-Atlantic Diversity Conference

Will Robinson, Apr 11 2013

Last Saturday, a group of students and faculty attended the Mid-Atlantic Region Diversity Conference at Abington Friends School in Philadelphia. The conference brought together students from public and private schools all over Delaware, New Jersey and the greater Philadelphia area.

Students were excited to continue exploring the concepts of diversity and identity that St. Andrew's focused on in our own recent Student Led Diversity Conference a few weeks ago. Josue Chavez, '14 described the specific goal of the conference as "to not only learn from other people's perspectives but also to take a genuine look in the mirror and deal with parts of our identity that for some reason we wouldn't do elsewhere."

Several participants noted the power of the conference's keynote speaker, NAIS Student Diversity Leadership Conference chair Rodney Glasgow, who spoke about the nature of personal identity in a social context. Zoe Scurletis, '14, wrote of her experience listening to Mr. Glasgow, "I cannot even begin to describe the feelings I felt while he talked. He made us all smile, laugh, cry, cheer, and self-reflect. By the end of the conference, the three hundred attendees felt like one community rather than kids from different schools."

Despite being only one day long, this diversity conference was a powerful experience for all who participated. Lily Shao, '16, wrote, "It's great to meet with people from outside of our school community and try to learn about and appreciate each other's differences and similarities." Having returned from the conference, the students hope to continue serving as ambassadors for this kind of interpersonal connection throughout the St. Andrew's community and in his or her hometowns.