

#### Discussion Points:

1. Scope and significance of project
2. Impact on the school or community—what change resulted from the student's work?
3. Sustainability—will this program continue after the student graduates?
4. Is this person seen as a leader in race relations within the school/community?
5. How would his/her peers would react if the student were awarded the Prize.

#### Summary:

Whitney is clearly a leader and deserves to be recognized.

She has a lot of maturity and has successfully executed a plan to create an “affinity club” that has not only maintained its attendance rates, but successfully started to influence conversations at the school and sponsor meaningful, well-attended events at the school.

Other groups have not had this success because they lacked the planning and leadership that Whitney had.

The group has a strong chance of sustainability because she has focused on incorporating and empowering students from the lower classes, and now they are starting to take on more of the planning work.

It is clear that this applicant’s role in creating this club was crucial to its development, as shown by the story of bringing this idea to the board. Whitney created all of the materials needed and the board approved right away because, by the way she had laid it out, it just all made sense.

In terms of our areas of rating – significance, impact and applicant’s involvement - she covers all of these areas with excellence. She truly goes above and beyond. The only small gap is perhaps the impact of this on the wider community, but this is such a new idea that I think this will come with time.

#### Interview Transcript:

Whitney came to me as school opened and proposed a club, affinity group, for students of color.

There is not much diversity in the school and they have learned in talking to these girls at the school that it is tough to be in a white majority

Very impressed with how well she understood the politics and that it might not be well received, but he supported it if they could make a good mission

Made a presentation during the time of club sign ups – this has sustained itself because of the conversations that they’ve had.

In the last few weeks:

- The dean of students said the club had been talking about how they felt that the dean of students was singling them out. Whitney came in 10 minutes later, recounted the same conversations, and wanted to talk about it. She thought the dean was incorrectly characterized, but the girls felt strongly about it. He thought it would be good to meet with the whole group to hear the concerns.
  - Whitney acted as the liaison between the students and the principle. She is adept at spotting problems in advance and comes in with solutions
- On Wednesday of this week, they had a poetry slam. 2 Local African American poets came in and shared their poetry. It was amazing, everyone loved it. It's exactly what Whitney had planned
  - It will bring a normalization of the place of the African American students in the school.
- Before Christmas, Whitney said she wanted to show Black Panther at lunch periods and many kids came, not just kids of color.
  - Trying to bring them more into the community without identifying them as African Americans
  - Seen as a leader – likely to be president of the whole school next year and has generated the respect of all students in the school
    - Maybe the best student leader in his 40 years
    - Always looking for what is going to make this better

Sustainable?

She has brought along 3-4 freshmen of color who she has nurtured. She is thinking 2 years from now and purposefully included younger kids in the

The group meets once every 10 days or so and also have a lunch together once a month

Kids have been coming to the group who are not kids of color

There is a core of the kids in the group who are angry, and they don't know how to deal with it

But they have the space where they can talk about it

This has also helped them through the principle communicate to the teachers about what questions are okay

Ex. To Kill a Mockingbird – talked about awful it is to hear the teachers use the N word. Asked them what they should do about it and the group said that they should tell the teachers to tell the class that they will not use the word (the students or the teacher). The younger kids talked about this and brought up this concern and solution and have been empowered by Whitney

The teachers think this is a positive thing and really trust Whitney

In the community

Impact has been subtle. Because the group can talk about things that matter to them, some of that gets related to the white majority by some of the older girls through their friends.

There hasn't been a noticeable change but increased in subtle understanding

Once they heard about the Prize, they would celebrate for her and believe that it fits.

She's extremely bright and an engaged student

Creating the program

He believed there would be a program if it is perceived that this is a club closing itself off from the school

She was clear that she wanted the kids to have an identity and incorporate these students more successfully into the school

It takes real leadership to continue something for a full year or beyond.

Whitney is the kid who was there every step and made this happen so that it could continue to the long run.

She prepared everything for the conservative board so that they could get this passed.

The board said this works, due to her successful planning of it

Easy to work with her because she had a concept but knows how to get there to, she was thoughtful in advance