



Annual Youth Summit Testimonials

From Students, Teachers/Administrators; and Others

**Bushra Arif, Grade 12
McFarland High School**

“I’ve appreciated the Unity Summit bringing students from different schools together to have real conversations about equity, leadership, and belonging. It’s created a space where we learn from one another, challenge each other’s perspectives, and leave ready to create change in our own communities.”

**Rowan Chmielewski, Grade 12
Platteville High School**

“The Unity Summit was a powerful reminder that student voices matter. As a high school senior, I felt inspired by the stories of courage and resilience shared by speakers and peers alike. Hearing how other schools are working to promote belonging in their communities was especially meaningful. It gave me real ideas I can bring back to my own school, and the motivation to help create a more welcoming environment for everyone. I left the summit truly inspired and ready to take action.”

**Brett Jacobson
Principal
McFarland High School**

“It has been a joy to host the Unity Summit annually to get to see students connect with the common goal of spreading love instead of hate. This impactful event for students, teachers and administrators also showcases the kind of community these young leaders are already starting to build.”

**Melanie Kozlowski, Student
Engagement Facilitator
Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln
High School**

“From the moment I left the 2024 Summit in McFarland, I knew I had to see what I could do to bring the message of unity to schools in this part of the state. There is so much fear, anger, and division in this world that it is easy for people to lose hope. We can come together to treat one another with kindness and respect.”

**Joshua Thomas, Language Arts
Teacher Stoughton High School**

“The feedback we have received from students and faculty alike has been overwhelmingly positive. It is evident that Mac and Bibi’s message of bravery and courage resonated deeply with our students, and they have left an indelible mark on our school community. The success of Mac and Bibi’s visit has given us a perfect springboard to launch Stoughton United, our chapter of WAMU. We are eager to continue our partnership with you and your organization. Once again, thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our students.”

**Jacob Crase, Principal
Platteville High School**

“The Unity Summit was such an inspiring event; I was honored to attend with Platteville High School students and their advisor, Mrs. Zachary. The student leaders in attendance have already incorporated insights gained from the summit into our monthly real-talk scenarios.”

**Demetri Beekman, Executive Director
Department of Public Instruction**

“I have witnessed firsthand how this movement cultivates inclusive leadership by investing in the voices of today’s youth. Their impact is deep, lasting, and essential to creating schools where every student is recognized, understood, and valued. Through the Youth Unity Summits, Wisconsin scholars are not only having courageous conversations, but they are also becoming the change agents our communities so desperately need. This work is building bridges where others have built barriers.”