



## **Thank You for the Opportunity!**

Submitted by Maya Mosley-Walker  
Sophomore, Lakeview Centennial High School  
Garland, Texas

The annual Young Women's Leadership Symposium's object is to inspire our youth into pursuing their ambitions in life by bringing motivating women leaders to speak and encourage students to think about career opportunities, set goals and then work to pursue their career choices.

I have attended this great event before in both Austin and Dallas as a participant. My experiences as a table host at the Houston Symposium on December 3<sup>rd</sup> were completely different, and it allowed me to see different aspects of the event. As a past student participant, the morning started off with a continental breakfast and an assigned table with an adult mentor and other students, who you may or may not know. Conversation is one of the key components of this event, and as middle and high school girls, meeting new people can be a challenge. One of the primary roles of the mentor is get the girls to open up and start a conversation during the roundtable discussion. This helped the group progress in the activities throughout the day. Once everyone shared something about themselves, we all seemed to find something in common with each other. After that, the atmosphere became more comfortable for everyone.

Being a host for a table for the first time, my job was to help my mentor with anything she needed and to help her manage her time with the different group activities. The morning started earlier for us as a host. We were asked to help set up and welcome the students as they arrived. Throughout the day, managing my table kept me on my toes and engaged in everything that was happening. It also helped me develop my leadership skills.

At the end of the Symposium, I also helped with cleaning and packing up the supplies. These additional duties extended my expectations of the amount of time I thought we planned to spend at the event. Yet, the entire day was very rewarding and it was great to be able to help the wonderful ladies, the mentors and role models, I met and the new friends I made.

The Young Women's Leadership Symposium has been a memorable experience each time I have attended and I plan to continue attending every year.

Thank you for the opportunity!