Symposium at UHS

Union High School was host to the Four Rivers Learning Symposium held July 28-31. A total of 39 different school districts and universities and roughly 210 unique educators registered who attend or presented at the event.

**SYMPOSIUM**

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Presenters and attendees so far.

Tammy Geisert, a teacher at St. Clair Junior High School, said she loved the idea of the Franklin County community coming together to share ideas.

"For me, personally and professionally, I was honored to present a topic others wanted to learn about," Geisert said. "My goal was to share what we've learned about our Leader in Me journey, and give other schools helpful information about our experiences. Learning from others is a key component for growth as a district, as a building or as an individual."

Union Middle School teacher Amanda Sullivan also said she was pleased to share her skills and have the opportunity to present about others' skills and ideas.

"I learned a lot that I'm implementing right now as I write lessons," Sullivan said. "My students are going to positively impacted this year because of the symposium."

St. Charles School District teacher Kara Welty described her experience as "incredible."

"I was absolutely amazed by the amount of educators who attended and traveled from all over the Missouri area to attend this event, especially since this was the first year this symposium was established," she said.

She presented "Growing Readers Into Goal Setters."

"Even a week later, I continue to receive tweets and emails from attendees thanking me for presenting, sharing my information, and getting them excited for school," Welty said.

Presenters also complimented the district on its communication throughout the planning stages.

"The Four Rivers Learning Symposium was very well organized," said Dr. Vanessa van der Graaf, associate professor at Lindenwood University. As a presenter, I appreciated the transparency in communication throughout the entire process."

**Thanks Others**

Tarte thanked the district maintenance staff, which prepared the building for the event, as well as students, presenters and attendees.

Union High School Wildcat Instructional Technology students presented at the event, as well as helped design the logo and website.

Students included Dylan Fitzgerald, Kayla Viehland, Karry Brockman, and Emily Sippel, all working on the website; Nick Kee, who created the logo; and Gabe Ross and Jacob Meeker, who both created the flyer.

"With the success of this event, Union R-XI is excited about hosting an even bigger Four Rivers Learning Symposium in the summer of 2016," Tarte said.

**Holocaust Presentation**

A talk by Ben Fainer, Holocaust survivor and author of "Silent for Sixty Years," will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 25, at 6 p.m. at the Union library. The presentation will be followed by a book signing of "Silent for Sixty Years." People may reserve a spot by calling 636-583-3224.