



**Washington Leadership Institute**

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Charles Carson  
c/o Oakland Alternative School  
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Charles:

Just a short note to say thanks again for being part of our presentation to the Rotary last week. I think it went really well and that a lot of our success had to do with the fact that it was young voices that were speaking. We received a number of positive remarks on your speaking ability, and quite an interest in your story; I think many of the people in the audience understood—for the first time— what it can be like for a young person in our society today. It was something they really needed to hear, and you did a great job.

Thanks to your participation, a dozen of the Rotary members have expressed an interest in working with the Youth Initiative. What that translates to, is that those adults will come to value the experience of working side-by-side with young people in a spirit of cooperation, and—that in the long-run—more youth will be given the opportunity to test their convictions, benefit from real-world experience, and look forward to more meaningful career opportunities in the future.

Also wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed being at your school on Friday. As I said to the staff that day, this is what education is about. I think its great that your faculty and others recognize the value of allowing young people to find the truth within themselves. I have to say, too, that the students at your school are number one; I have never seen students display such a level of respect and consideration for one another at any other school I've visited. I think you're fortunate to be where you are.

Call me if there's anything I can help you with. I'm looking forward to working with you again, soon.

Regards,

Stephen Harrell, Director  
Tacoma-Pierce County Youth Initiative