



## Youth Leadership Summit Yields Sustainable Projects

Students wrapped up their weeklong summit with the Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative last Friday, but that is not the end of their work. Many of their projects have staying power befitting the title of the gathering, the Youth Leadership Summit for Sustainable Development.

One of their creations is a Sustainable Vineyard Map. Emma HallBilsback will lead a group including Eva Faber, Julia Cooper, Kelsey Dandeneau, Cerina Gordon, Warren Gowell, Andrew Randall and Caitlin Serpa in making a presentation at the second annual Walter Cronkite Awards ceremony on July 18. In September, they will present the map to the Tisbury selectmen, to contribute to the Green Communities plan. In November, they have been invited to present it to the APEC (Asian Pacific Economic Council) in Hawaii with business and world leaders.

Courtney Minnehan led the sustainable business project with Beads for Life, to support impoverished women in Uganda while supporting their own college dreams. The team of Shavanae Anderson, Amoy Anderson, Shawna Brown, Sivana Brown, Bella El Deiry, Je'Vaughn Crooks, Shelby Ferry, Tiara Lee and Kendall Robinson will present the unique, colorful jewelry at the reception following the Walter Cronkite awards ceremony.

The summit was held at the Captain Flanders Inn in Chilmark. Built in 1938 and originally used to grind corn, the inn had significance for a summit focused on sustainable development, noted owner Julie Flanders.

Guest speakers included Johnny Earle of Johnny Cupcakes, Rubin Cronig, Ben Kelley, Sidney Morris, Chris Seidel and the grandson of civil rights activist Cesar Chavez.

Youth Leadership Institute graduates made presentations about the group's programs, including Job Shadow Day, business internships, college preparation and cultural health. Youth delegates from Hawaii, Nantucket, Vieques and Virgin Gorda made presentations on sustainable development initiatives from their islands.

"The annual youth leadership summit provides a unique opportunity for young leaders committed to finding innovative solutions to our environmental challenges, to gather and exchange ideas," Gov. Deval Patrick said.