



AIC members leading academic integrity pledge campaign in cafeteria.

High School Academic Integrity Pledge Campaign

The West Haven High School Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) conducted an Academic Integrity Pledge Campaign in the fall of 2011. In support of the campaign, the AIC had previously authored an academic integrity pledge, which states—

I pledge to be honest, fair, and respectful in all my dealings with fellow Westies. I will display my Westie Pride by not cheating, stealing, lying, or assisting others in doing so.

This pledge was printed on a business card with the AIC’s motto, *Reach for success, not just the answers*, and given to students who would recite the pledge at

lunch time. Students who recited the pledge were also given a plastic wrist bracelet in the school’s colors with *Integrity* printed on the bracelet.

AIC members ran the pledge drive from a table positioned near the food service area of the school cafeteria. A 4’by6’ AIC banner was posted on the wall behind the table. The banner noted in large print the Academic Integrity Committee and in smaller print the AIC’s motto noted previously.

One AIC member who volunteered to work at the pledge table stated, “I hope the pledge drive helps more kids want to be honest.”



Student taking the integrity pledge.

Students were recruited to read and take the pledge as they lined up for lunch or after they were finished with their meal. Students came individually or in small groups to inquire about the AIC Pledge table.



Student with integrity bracelet after taking pledge.

Several students were interviewed after they took the integrity pledge. Responses to the question, “How do you think the pledge drive and integrity bracelet will help WHHS?” included—“The bracelet will remind me not to cheat.” “I think this will encourage me to do my own studying.” “The pledge drive encourages us not to lie.”

In addition to the fall pledge drive, the AIC is planning several other outreaches to their own school and to others in the district. Projects that are in the planning stage include a movie night with an integrity theme and free refreshments, an essay contest with a focus

on integrity and an outreach to middle or elementary schools where AIC members present lessons or skits on the value of integrity.

Sponsored by the school’s social studies chairperson, Mark Consorte, and led by student officers, the AIC continues to grow and recruit students and faculty to participate in the monthly planning meetings. The WHHS AIC is a terrific demonstration of service-learning as a project of SEE’s Integrity Works! program.