



## AAUW HIGH SCHOOL SUMMITS

2001 – Originated in Edinburgh, TX by Melba Zaremba, AAUW President, at her high school

2007 - Began in North Harris County at Klein Forest High School with 400 girls

2016 – 7,700 students, including some boys, have attended Summits in Klein, Spring, and Cy Fair

High School Summit Goals:

1. Increase graduation rate – statistics show that Klein Forest's increased dramatically;
2. Increase numbers of girls taking dual credit or AP courses which increase their likelihood of success in college;
3. Decrease pregnancy rates;
4. Increase interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) classes and careers;
5. Prepare young women to become successful in the 21st century.

Topics covered are:

- Healthy and appropriate relationships- “It’s All about You!”
- Overcoming odds - “Never Give UP”
- STEM and career options – “Success 101”
- Responsibility - “Leaving a Positive Digital Image”
- Motivation and goal-setting - “Shine Like a Diamond”

The day’s events include:

- A motivating keynote speaker starts the day, hopefully a well-known woman in the community who will donate her time;
- Students attend “break out” sessions during the day hearing a variety of speakers, sometimes successful graduates of that high school;
- AAUW volunteers help teachers and counselors in the sessions with attendance, etc.
- AAUW provides colorful T- shirts that include the logo of NHC AAUW as sponsors of the event;
- Girls receive “prizes” at end of day for participating in the sessions;
- Girls write goals for their futures based on what they learned at the Summit and an evaluation of the day.

**Results of the AAUW Summits:** *Newsweek* magazine included Klein Forest High school in its list of 1500 top U.S. high schools based on the school’s increased graduation rates (92%). The College Board Association awarded Klein Forest a \$5,000 grant and featured the AAUW Summit in its annual report as a recommended model for “Getting In” college.

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*“Nothing you do for children is ever wasted” - Socrates*