

**For Immediate Release**

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**City-Wide Heritage Panel to Bring Diverse Group Together**

Birmingham, AL, Aug. 24, 2016 – A diverse group of students and educators will participate in the Magic City Heritage Panel, a discussion about important but often-ignored issues such as cliques, race, gender, cultural backgrounds and exclusion that affect the high school experience. The event is set for Sunday, Aug. 28, 2016 from 2-6 p.m. at Railroad Park, 1600 1st Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35233.

The city-wide Heritage Panel is the brainchild of Mountain Brook High School student Dailey Nichols and is modeled after YWCA Central Alabama's Heritage Panel program. Presented at middle and high schools, the YW's program empowers a diverse group of student leaders to make their school a more inclusive and welcoming place by creating a climate that discourages bullying and harassment.

Dailey participated in Heritage Panel at her school and was part of an exchange program between Mountain Brook and Wenonah High Schools. Her experience with the Heritage Panel exchange was so impactful it inspired her to create the Magic City Heritage Panel as her Girl Scouts Gold Award project. She hopes to share what she learned with participants of the Magic City Heritage Panel.

The YW's program is held at participating schools and is a two-day, intensive workshop for 25 students and five educators. The diverse group of participants share their experiences, learn from each other and are asked to make personal commitments to improving relations at their school. Following the training, the participants share what they have learned with their classmates.

For information on Sunday's Magic City Heritage Panel or YWCA Central Alabama's Heritage Panel program, contact Rebecca Harkless at [rharkless@ywcabham.org](mailto:rharkless@ywcabham.org).

**The YWCA Central Alabama** is a United Way organization dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. For more information, please visit [www.ywcabham.org](http://www.ywcabham.org), [www.facebook.com/YWCACentralAlabama](https://www.facebook.com/YWCACentralAlabama) and [www.youtube.com/ywcentralal](https://www.youtube.com/ywcentralal) or follow @YWCentralAL on Twitter.