



Lesniak Institute

for AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

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Students lead environmental symposium to change environmental standards in NJ

Union, NJ - College students, members of the community, and environmental leaders came together on Nov. 14 for an environmental forum, Let's Clear The Air: A Student-Led Symposium, hosted in partnership by The Lesniak Institute for American Leadership, Kean University Earth Science Club, and New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability (NJHEPS).

The event began with two keynote speakers, Sen. Raymond J. Lesniak, founder and president of The Lesniak Institute for American Leadership and Robert Laumbach M.D., Associate Professor at Rutgers University.

"We have framed this event in a way that every single participant will have a voice in the discussion," said Sarah Mack, director of The Lesniak Institute for American Leadership. "Every student was able to leave with a clear action plan in place to combat NJ air pollution."

During the symposium, students led conversations regarding how they can make a difference to the air quality in NJ. This occurred for approximately one hour. Following the small-table discussions, the floor opened for each table to select a representative to conclude the evening with a open discussion with all the attendees.

"Clean Air and Clean Water is taken for granted and it shouldn't be. Raising awareness of the need to advocate for the well being of our environmental is a focus of the Lesniak Institute," said Senator Lesniak.

Among the moderators were Maya Van Rossum the author of The Green Amendment, which was one of the main topic conversations throughout the evening, and Bethann Rooney, assistant director for the Port Department who provided insights into getting dirty trucks off roads in NJ.

At the closing of the event, the advocates were asked to visit the LesniakInstitute.com/air to take action by contacting their legislators.

About The Lesniak Institute for American Leadership

The Lesniak Institute for American Leadership, based at Kean University, is a nonprofit think tank and training institute to develop the next generation of American leaders, and to partner with grassroots leaders from across the country, to advocate for social justice. The Institute is named for Senator Raymond J. Lesniak, who, over a 40-year career in the New Jersey Legislature, authored and sponsored hundreds of laws that have advanced civil rights and the quality of life for millions.

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