



## **Women's Leadership Project #MeToo Workshop at the 2018 #RiseUp Conference**

By Eclasia Wesley (WLP Gardena HS alum, 2009, Mt Saint Mary's College, 2018)

The #RiseUp conference was a total success! On behalf of Women's Leadership Project (WLP), I co-hosted a workshop on the #MeToo movement and sexual harassment. My co-presenter, Marena Kyle (WLP alum, 2014, CSUN, 2019), and I discussed themes regarding women of color, sexual violence, rape culture and media. There was a substantial amount of dialogue from the audience, which included students, teachers, and school staff. The conversation included how schools deal with sexual harassment; how women of color are victimized, and how certain male behaviors have become "normalized". Many of the students in our session discussed dealing with or knowing someone who has dealt with sexual harassment. I was able to show the group a video made by WLP students in 2016 highlighting their own experiences (which they loved). The students in the workshop expressed the desire to develop sexual harassment workshops at their own schools.

I believe that this workshop was powerful and very meaningful. It should be a reoccurring conversation in schools with staff and students. If we fail to educate our youth on this important topic, they will be unable to see its severity in our society.