

# Spring 2016 Environmental Youth Conference

by Amy Weisbaum

On Thursday, April 28th, three dozen high school students from Ha:sañ Preparatory & Leadership School attended the 3rd annual Environmental Science and Health Youth Conference at the University of Arizona. This year's theme was Global Environmental Leadership and Sustainability. During this day-long event, students participated in group activities and heard from three influential guest speakers.

Between each lecture, students took part in activities that allowed them to reflect on their own carbon footprint and what they can do to start making a positive difference in the environment, such as sorting out all of the recyclables



*Students and instructors engage to discuss what is environmental health  
(Photograph by IngriQue Salt)*



*Students gather with laughter for the 2015 Environmental Science & Health Youth Conference, held at the University of Arizona, Keating Building (Photograph by IngriQue Salt).*



*Measuring loads of trash to calculate wasted space in landfills  
(Photograph by IngriQue Salt)*

from a trash pile to learn about the use and wasted space in landfills, ordering lists of items based on decomposition time, and tossing around beach balls with questions written on them to their peers. These showed students how easy it is to be careless when it comes to our environment, but opened their eyes to the simplicity of creating and maintaining a more sustainable environment.

Students were given the opportunity to express themselves creatively through writing haikus about environmental health and science. Three of these poems are featured on page 12 in the art section. The event wrapped up with everyone participating in the earth pledge. This was a reflective experience for all in that we expressed our individual commitment to the planet.