



**iowacollaboration  
for youth development**

**October 2014**

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**Mark Your Calendar**

**IYC Annual Conference  
October 2-4, 2014**

The 9th Annual Iowa Youth Congress Session will be held in the Iowa House Chamber at the State Capitol in Des Moines. Special guests include University of Iowa School of Law student Nick De La Cruz.

Questions or comments? Email

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**YPQA Basics  
October 20, 2014**

The Youth Program Quality Assessment provides education in the subject area of youth development practices. Participants will learn how to perform a self assessment and will be able to comprehend external assessment results.

Click [here](#) to register.

**YPQA External Assessment and Reliability  
October 21-22, 2014**

YPQA is providing external reliable YPQA assessor certification training for individuals who participated in YPQA Basics. This training requires assessors to agree to policies governing the work of YPQA. Training on the 21st will include lunch.

Click [here](#) to register.

**SIYAC 1st Quarterly Meeting  
October 23, 2014**

SIYAC will hold its 1st quarterly meeting of the 2014-2015 year in the legislative dining room at the State Capitol.

Questions or comments? Email

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# ICYD INSIDER

## Youth Development News |

## SIYAC Update

**Public encouraged to voice thoughts on Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems**

A public comment session hosted by the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Advisory Council and the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council will be held **Tuesday, October 14, from 6-8 p.m.** at the **DMACC Center for Career & Professional Development at Southridge, Room 20A.**

Council members are seeking input from Iowan's to be considered when drafting a 20-year plan for the state.

Click [here](#) for more information on registering for this event.

**Non-violent crime detention rates still high 40 years after passage of JJDP Act**

**The Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act** was signed into law on September 7, 1974. The passage of this legislation aided in the establishment of the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention (OJJDP).

While OJJDP is making strides in securing justice and safety for the nation's youth, non-violent crime incarceration rates continue to pose problems for improving youth outcomes.

According to Robert L. Listenbee, nearly 70 percent of incarcerated youth in the United States are held in detention for nonviolent crimes. According to a report conducted by the **Justice Policy Institute**, detention emotionally and physically separates youth from their families causing adverse effects on a young person's developing brain. However, recent advances in scientific and evidence-based methods prove helpful in solving this issue.

OJJDP has more education now in the effects of incarceration on youth than it did a decade ago. Research has proven that non-violent crime detention does in fact have a profound impact on the mental, physical and emotional well-being of young people as it exposes them to a harsh environment closely related to an adult prison.

Listenbee is certain, though, that by embracing this research and using it to further transform juvenile justice reform, OJJDP and its partners can continue to build upon a future that will ensure justice and safety for the nation's youth.

For more information on juvenile justice reform click [here](#).

**SIYAC members start year off as heroes of service**

SIYAC members are working on 14 different service projects in their local communities.

The service projects aim to address a specific need or population in each member's community. These needs may include school supplies for students, wellness supplies for homeless shelters, cards for hospitalized kids, letters to veterans, supplies for the Animal Rescue League, a school garden, and toys for children.

As of September 28, 2014, two members have successfully completed their service projects with outstanding results.

Sally Ropes, 18, from Pella, IA, initiated a wellness supply drive in her community to address the needs of Iowa's homeless. Her drive collected more than 800 wellness items that were then donated to Central Iowa Shelter Services in Des Moines, Iowa.

Harshini Abbaraju, 14, from Johnston, IA, initiated a project that aimed to bring hope to hospitalized children through the art of penmanship. She recruited a group of Johnston High School students to write letters to hospitalized children. Her group created a total of 95 cards that were then delivered to the organization **Cards for Hospitalized Kids**.

Upon completion of their service projects, each SIYAC member will fill out a **Service Project Report** and give a presentation on the report during SIYAC's 1st quarterly meeting in October.

**Iowa Youth Congress (IYC) Regional meetings generate discussions on critical youth issues**

To prepare for the IYC Annual Event, regional meetings were held in Des Moines and Davenport. Regional officers were selected and bill ideas were developed. SIYAC members Harshini Abbaraju, T.J. Foley, Isabelle Pierotti and Ethan Lowder networked with IYC youth members to discuss many issues affecting Iowa's youth.

Click [here](#) for a complete list of Iowa Youth Congress bill ideas to be debated during the 9th Annual Iowa Youth Congress Event in Des Moines, IA on October 2-4, 2014.