



**iowacollaboration  
foryouthdevelopment**

## Mark your Calendar

### May 12—ICYD Council Meeting

The Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development Council will meet Wednesday, May 12th from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. The meeting will take place in the Starkweather room at the Jessie Parker Building.

### May 20—How Municipal Leaders Can Engage Parents in Dropout Prevention

On Thursday, May 20th from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm, America's Promise Alliance will host a webinar to share how city leaders can successfully frame the critical issues. It will feature city practices and examples on the unique role that municipal leaders play in engaging families in education. Community leaders and managers of programs related to parent engagement, education and public/private partnerships are encouraged to attend.

To Register, [Click Here](#) (RSVP by May 18th).

## Youth Development News

### America's Promise and AT&T Partner to Provide My Ideas Grant

America's Promise Alliance and AT&T have recently launched the [My Idea Grants Program](#). My Idea is part of Grad Nation, a campaign to mobilize America to end the dropout crisis and ensure that high school graduates are prepared for college and a 21st century career.

### American Youth Policy Forum Presents Research on Youth Programs

This publication is designed to help policy-

makers and practitioners learn about effective programs supporting college- and career-readiness. To view this research, [Click Here](#).

### The Economic Policy Institute Presents a Labor Market Analysis of Youth Workers

This briefing paper will discuss the severity of the unemployment crisis facing young adults, its historical context, and the implications for their future wages and skills. To learn more about what they found, [Click Here](#).

## A Note From Our Chair...

*Preston Daniels is the director of the Department of Human Rights and is Chair of ICYD.*

Members of the ICYD Council have visited eight communities across the state gathering information to use in developing strategies to increase the graduation rate to 95% by 2020. The meetings were with a cross-section of the communities who were invited by the mayor and school superintendents. The conversations centered on: 1. Identifying barriers to students graduating, 2. Successful strategies and programs, and 3. Recommendations to the state for students to be more successful. The ICYD Council has gathered a wealth of information that will be analyzed to identify commonalities and things that are unique. When we complete all of the community visits (we have 2 or 3 more), the ICYD Council will use the results in designing better ways for state agencies to operate for students to be successful. As a start, we anticipate that some policies will be changed to remove barriers and that some strategies that are successful will be shared with other communities to be replicated.

We appreciate the number of community people that took the time to meet with us and share their thoughts on what needs to be done to increase the graduation rates across Iowa.

Preston Daniels

## SIYAC Update

As the school year comes to an end, the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC) reflects on a year of accomplishments:

- Developing the KWAKer Toolkit, a guide for neighborhood youth led service groups (Distributed by the Iowa Commission for Volunteer Service in promotion for Global Youth Service Day)
- Joining with over 200 youth at the Desire to Inspire Elevate Conference to raise awareness for youth issues
- Advocating for dropout prevention, alongside iJAG youth, on a special legislative Day on the Hill

SIYAC is currently seeking motivated and passionate young leaders for the 2010-2011 school year. The 21 members (ages 14-21) represent youth of diverse backgrounds by participating in youth summits and community forums while offering input, in teams, to legislators, officials, and youth organizations. SIYAC members benefit from trainings, civic engagement, and youth networking opportunities. In its 8<sup>th</sup> year, SIYAC is expected to reach new heights to solidify its role as Iowa's Youth Voice.

**Deadline to apply is Monday May 24<sup>th</sup>.**

If you know someone who is a good fit for SIYAC, please have them visit [www.icyd.iowa.gov/SIYAC](http://www.icyd.iowa.gov/SIYAC) to start applying TODAY!