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Mark your Calendar

Oct. 13th —ICYD Council Meeting

The next ICYD meeting will take place in the Stark-weather Room of the Jessie Parker Building from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. If you have any questions or comments, please email steve.michael@iowa.gov.

Oct. 19 & 20—Building a Balance Conference

SineQuaNon presents a conference in Des Moines centered around the work of adult volunteers working with youth through youth/adult partnerships that provide both empowerment of youth and development of youth potential with accountability and responsibility. To learn more, [Click Here](#).

Youth Development News

Teen Unemployment Creates Lasting Negative Effects

With the economy not getting any better, teenagers are taking on the majority of the job loss. This article focuses on research that this lack of employment at an early age will effect teenagers in the long term. To learn more, [Click Here](#).

September is Childhood Obesity Awareness Month

President Barack Obama proclaimed September as National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. To read his proclamation and to learn more about what you can do, [Click Here](#).

A Note From Our Chair...

Preston Daniels is the director of the Department of Human Rights and was elected Chair of the ICYD Council:

The start of the school year is a time to reflect on the opportunities and great possibilities available to our young people. Along with acknowledging these opportunities, we need to recognize the challenges and barriers preventing some of our youth from being successful in school and in life. These barriers include:

- Parent and family issues (e.g. mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence)
- Low Expectations by parents – little value on education
- Lack of transportation
- Poverty (lack of food, clothing, shelter)
- Inaccessibility to services and supports
- Inflexible policies in school and community services
- Lack of career planning.

These are examples of barriers that 10 Iowa communities have identified that many youth must fight through to be successful in school. By looking at these barriers, it is obvious that schools cannot fix these problems alone. It will take the community and state systems working together to address all of the barriers – those created by the systems (e.g. schools, human services, public health, juvenile justice, local government, and workforce development) and the more difficult barriers affecting the family and community. This Fall, the ICYD Council will be developing coordinated action plans to address prioritized issues at the state level and in the respective communities.

We welcome comments and suggestions to help us work toward achieving ICYD's purpose, Preston Daniels

SIYAC Update

Saranya Subramanian, student at Iowa City West and first year SIYAC member, talks about youth voice

As the youth of Iowa, I believe we have a different take on ideas. Our "limited" experience has given us the chance to decide what is truly right and wrong; our bias and prejudice isn't as deeply rooted. Our voices should be heard because the decisions of today affect our near futures. We choose our friends, college, and classes, why not programs and laws? SIYAC gives youth around the state a chance to speak on such decisions, and I plan to speak on the behalf of all youth from the state.

I'm involved in many activities Iowa City West has to offer. However, ever since the state has been taking budget cuts, extracurricular activities have been taking a hit. After school activities give kids a chance to meet other kids with similar interests. It also gives teachers a more personal role in a child's life. Lately, many schools around the state don't have enough money to fund for the group or an adviser. As a SIYAC member I want every kid to have a place at school or in the community where they feel comfortable. They shouldn't have to worry about insufficient funds or a lack of an adviser. I don't like hearing about kids who can't find a place to feel safe, and hopefully SIYAC and I can change that.