

February 2011

# ICYD INSIDER



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## Mark your Calendar

### Feb. 23th —ICYD Council Meeting

The next ICYD Council meeting will be on February 23th in the Starkweather Room in the Jessie Parker Building, Des Moines, Iowa from 2:00 to 4:00pm. For more information, email

[steve.michael@iowa.gov](mailto:steve.michael@iowa.gov).

### April 26— Risky Business Conference

The Risky Business Conference will be at Iowa State University in Ames, IA in the Scheman building on April 26th from 9am-5pm. The Conference brings adults and high school youth together to increase knowledge of issues confronting youth and to expand skills that advance youth development. Check-in begins at 8:00 a.m. Register by April 22, 2011. To find out more please [click here](#).

## Youth Development News

### Join SIYAC!

The State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC) is accepting applications for 2011–2012 —[Application](#). SIYAC members represent youth across the state of Iowa. As a SIYAC member, one is expected to communicate with their school, community, and state leaders to address issues and promote positive youth development. For more information visit [SIYAC website](#) or contact the Coordinator, Allan Tritch, at 515.725.2836 or [allan.tritch@iowa.gov](mailto:allan.tritch@iowa.gov).

### Mentor Recipients Honored

Stacy Garrow of Davenport, Spencer Lloyd of Muscatine, Cory Mickelson of Malvern and Larry Moser of Sioux City were all named recipients of the 2011 Excellence in Mentoring Award. Before the award ceremony, held at the State Capitol, legislators discussed what a vital part mentors play in Iowa's promise to youth. For more information, visit <http://www.iowamentoring.org/>

### Department of Human Rights Focus on Youth

The Department of Human Rights turns its attention to the next generation of Iowans. Five new AmeriCorps members have been carefully selected to fulfill Iowa's State of Promise program. Luke T. Harwath is the youth program coordinator for the Office of Asian and Pacific Islanders. Harwath has a BA in Communication and Performance as well as in Modern Language. His interest includes culture, communication and outreach. Luke is presently hoping to develop a program that will give youth voice through the arts. If you have any suggestions or comments please email: [Luke.Harwath@iowa.gov](mailto:Luke.Harwath@iowa.gov). Look for more about AmeriCorps members in next month's edition of the ICYD Insider.



## A Note from Our Chair

**The work of the ICYD Council is one of the reasons I accepted the position as director of the Department of Human Rights. My background is in youth development, having worked for youth-serving agencies, most recently as an educator, so it's exciting for me to be able to partner with other state agencies to promote positive youth development policies and to find ways to increase the quality and efficiency of services for youth. I look forward to learning about what is working, what is not, and listening to recommendations on how we can engage youth, families, and communities to increase the graduation rate in Iowa.**

*Isaiah McGee*

## SIYAC Update—Gabriel Walsh, SIYAC Executive Chair

I am a senior at Alta High School, and plan to attend Iowa State University this fall. A few bills SIYAC supports this legislative session include: Banning caffeinated alcoholic beverages; require American History and Government competency to graduate; and require public schools to provide vision screening to all first and third grade students. These are issues that the committees researched, formed a position statement on, and presented to the council for debate and approval. SIYAC believes that these issues will positively affect the youth of Iowa. SIYAC will continue to stay up-to-date on what is happening at the statehouse and all members will continue to advocate for young Iowans. As Chairman, I am very excited with how well the council has performed this year, and look forward to serving out the rest of my term. I believe that year by year, SIYAC will continue to move forward and serve as the youth voice for the state of Iowa.

<http://www.icyd.iowa.gov/>