

## Youth Development News



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### Mark your Calendar

#### Jan. 26th —ICYD Council Meeting

The next ICYD meeting will take place in the Starkweather Room of the Jessie Parker Building from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Questions or comments, please email [steve.michael@iowa.gov](mailto:steve.michael@iowa.gov).

#### 'Netiquette': Teens and Cyberbullying

This past October was National Cyber Security Awareness Month. According to the U.S. Department of Juvenile Justice "The cost of [cyber] bullying to its victims is one that we cannot afford to tolerate". Cyberbullying is the verbal harassment, for-forwarding of private messages / pictures or threats via communication technology. To read "Defending Childhood", Click [Here](#)

#### Event Inspires Students Civic Participation

On November 12, 2010, nearly 90 students throughout the state gathered at the Iowa State Capitol to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Iowa Youth Congress. Students voted on bills after a day of discussing and debating important issues in the House Chambers. Letters will be written requesting their legislators introduce these bills with the hope that when Congress reconvene in January the students' bills will be supported. To learn more about this annual event, [Click Here](#)



#### Transitioning Young Adults in Foster Care

Youths in foster care or in group homes must end their formal ties when they reach adult age. Building Bridges, a transitioning youth conference, held discussions concerning resources youth can use to help in this change. Specifically, a community partnership transitioning youth initiative. Elevate, for example is one of many partnerships used often by foster parents, social workers and youth, ages 13 and up, with chapters across the state design to share ideas on how to improve the process of pro-

grams and services for youths in foster care. [Click Here](#) for more on Elevate.

#### A Note from Our Chair

To identify ways to increase the graduation rate in Iowa, over the last year the ICYD Council has gathered and reviewed research and have had many community conversations across the state. As a result of this work, the ICYD Council has concluded for youth to be successful, three major components must all be in place:

- **Students Need to be Engaged and Attend School**
- **Families Need to be Engaged**
- **Schools and Communities Need to Support Youth**

The challenge now lies in identifying and developing effective strategies and action plans for each of these three focus areas. In the next year, the ICYD Council member agencies will be working together and with a number of communities, to accomplish these tasks.

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

*Preston Daniels*

#### SIYAC Update

My name is Khayree Fitten and I attend Mount Pleasant High School. I am a second year member of SIYAC, serving as legislative liaison for the Council this term. Like the rest of the state, we are actively transitioning to our newly elected governor, Terry Branstad. Each of our members is contacting and connecting with legislators, in the Council's attempt to network within the General Assembly. If you have any specific issues you would like us to discuss with legislators please contact SIYAC coordinator Allan.Tritch@iowa.gov (515) 725-2836.

