Greetings Community Advisory Network (CAN) members, PRC staff, and friends of the Healthy Youth Development·PRC network.

The University of Minnesota's Healthy Youth Development·Prevention Research Center (HYD-PRC) collaborates with state and local organizations and communities to provide training, conduct research, and disseminate findings related to best practices in healthy youth development.

The HYD-PRC melds effective research practices and sustained community collaboration to support healthy young people in all Minnesota communities. Promoting healthy youth development requires sound research and the
leadership to utilize it.

2009 Summer Institute: Social & Emotional Health focus

The Summer Institute in Adolescent Health will be held July 27 to 29 at the Minnesota Department of Health in St. Paul.

The theme in 2009, "Social and Emotional Health for All Young People: Expanding Approaches," will explore supportive environments - in families, in schools, and in communities - that promote the building of healthy pathways into adulthood.

Participants at the 2009 Summer Institute in Adolescent Health will learn strategies for enhancing supportive environments and fostering skills for social and emotional health; adding to what's already working--at school or after-school, within a residential center or a juvenile justice setting. Look for more details in April at the Center for Adolescent Nursing (School of Nursing) website.

The Summer Institute is sponsored by the Center for Adolescent Nursing, and co-sponsored by the Coordinated School Health program (Minnesota Department of Education), the HYD-PRC, the Konopka Institute for Best Practices in Adolescent Health, and the Maternal and Child Health Section (Minnesota Department of Health).

HYD-PRC CAN and staff news...

"Congrats" to Gabriel McNeal for being named CAN Co-Chair for a two year term (through 2011). Additionally, Gabriel accompanied CAN Co-Chair Rosemarie Rodriguez-Hager and PRC Community Outreach Coordinator Jenny Oliphant to the PRC National Community Committee (NCC) meeting in Washington, DC earlier this month. The gathering allowed PRC staff, CAN leaders and PRC directors to share ideas and stories from all 33 PRCs.

Imee Cambronero, a PRC Fellow, has just been awarded the 2009 President's Student Leadership and Service Award. This is an award from the Office of the President, the Office for Student Affairs and Student Unions and Activities, in recognition of outstanding student leaders at the University. Imee will be honored at an awards banquet on May 4th with President Bruininks presenting the award himself. Congratulations!

PRC Lead Evaluator Nancy Leland and PRC Research Assistant Vienna Rothberg are now conducting interviews for the evaluation component of the PRC's partnership with the Division of Indian Work (DIW). The organization was awarded an evaluation grant by the PRC last year for its
Live It! teen pregnancy prevention program, which is the only Native-American-based teen pregnancy prevention curriculum in the United States.

HYD-PRC Community Outreach Coordinator Jenny Oliphant and Kara Beckman, senior evaluator for the Prime Time program, are collaborating with MOAPPP to continue It's that Easy, a train the trainer curriculum helping parents be more capable in communicating with their children, especially about sex and sexuality. The HYD-PRC also received funding to do an evaluation of the program. Jenny Oliphant, Tracy Utech, PRC Dissemination Coordinator (as well as Tracy's daughter, Victoria) were all on WCCO-TV talking about the program and how parents should have an open and honest dialogue about the subject. Watch the segment here.

PRC Senior Evaluator Shari Plowman joined MOAPPP partners Brigid Riley (Executive Director) and Jill Farris (Program Manager) at the CDC's Promoting Science Based Strategies annual grantee meeting in Atlanta. The intersection of healthy youth development and teen pregnancy prevention dominated discussions. PRC Communications Director Glynis Shea was on hand to conduct a new communications workshop -- "Bringing Data to Life."

IN THE NEWS...

Digital Divide Initiative at the U
The University of Minnesota's Digital Divide Initiative (DDI) promotes the idea of "digital equity", particularly for traditionally underserved groups. Nationally, 70% of whites have access to the internet while only 57% of African Americans and 37% of Hispanic/Latinos have access. The DDI has developed innovative partnerships to help address the gaps that exist, like refurbishing donated computers with productivity and educational software such as Open Office, KidSmart Early Learning and many others.

Since mid-June 2008, DDI had distributed over 375 computer systems to households and approximately 100 computers to non-profits and day care centers in the greater Twin Cities area. DDI also offers several training programs for youth, adults and families. Learn more here!

New study suggests that parents and health-care professionals can use social-networking sites to curb potentially risky teen behavior.
A new study from Seattle's Children's Hospital claims that by harnessing popular new technology as a monitoring tool, physicians, parents and counselors may effectively tag along with teens for some of their social interactions and, when appropriate, contact teens at risk. Read more from Newsweek.

Study compares sexual behavior of virginity pledgers and matched nonpledgers.
Those surveyed for this study were National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health respondents, a nationally representative sample of
middle and high school students. Pledgers and matched nonpledgers were compared 5 years after the pledge on self-reported sexual behaviors, safe sex outside of marriage by use of birth control and condoms in the past year. The study results showed that five years after the pledge, 82% of pledgers denied having ever pledged. Pledgers and matched nonpledgers did not differ in premarital sex, sexually transmitted diseases, and anal and oral sex variable.

Access the Jan. 2009 *Pediatrics* journal article here.

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**Did you know?**

According to MarketWatch business news, younger workers, including teens, are disproportionately suffering in the nation's economic downturn. The unemployment rate among 16- to 19-year-olds hit 21% in January. Overall, younger workers may be more likely to lose their jobs in favor of more experienced workers.