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 adults in all Minnesota communities. Promoting healthy youth development requires sound research and the leadership to utilize it.

Next CAN Meeting:
-February 7, 2008
-Minnesota Department of Health, Snelling Office Park,
-Red River Room, 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

...the HYD-PRC has a new address!

Healthy Youth Development Prevention Research Center (HYD-PRC)
Division of Adolescent Health and Medicine
University of Minnesota
717 Delaware Street, SE, 3rd floor
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Youth development and youth learning...a common cause!

As practitioners in the field, we have a role in ensuring that healthy youth development practices and concepts are closely partnered with school day learning systems to create a more holistic definition of learning and youth development.
Newsweek magazine recently profiled the Boys and Girls Club of America (BGCA) and its critical role in developing young people into the community leaders of tomorrow. The BGCA is planning on operating 5,000 clubs in the U.S. by 2012--many inside school buildings. BGCA programs provide discovery and personal growth activities beyond academic tutoring and extended day learning. A recent Harris poll found that 28% of BGCA alumni said that they would have dropped out of high school were it not for the programs of the club. Read more!

-Learn more about the importance of afterschool time programming from Youth Community Connections, a leading source for advocacy and action on afterschool programs in MN here.

-Learn about research from the University of Illinois-Chicago on the quantitative benefits that quality afterschool programs provide to youth here.

-Learn more from the Mentoring Partnership of MN about some of the "social return" benefits to the state of Minnesota from mentoring young people and quality intervention programs here.

Congratulations to PRC fellows and CAN members!

Congratulations! to Molly Secor-Turner and Rachel Widome on having their research abstracts accepted for oral presentations at the 2008 Society for Adolescent Medicine Conference. Molly's research, an analysis of data from the 2004 Minnesota Student Survey, is titled Associations Between Sexually Experienced Adolescents' Sources Of Information About Sex And Risky Sexual Behaviors.

Rachel's research, an analysis of data from the Lead Peace evaluation, Measuring Neighborhood Connections And Associations With Violence In Adolescents. Rachel's abstract was selected as a finalist for the SAM New Investigator Award.

Congratulations also to Rosemarie Rodriguez-Hager and Gabriel McNeal who were just re-elected Community Action Network (CAN) Co-Chairs. Their new terms begin January 1.

Evaluation Grant Awarded to Division of Indian Work

The Division of Indian Work was awarded a $10,000 technical assistance grant from the HYD-PRC. Noya Woodrich serves as the executive director of the Division of Indian Work (DIW) which is based in south Minneapolis. DIW is the oldest direct-service organization for American Indians in the Twin Cities. DIW operates a family of programs to help urban American Indian adults and youth succeed. DIW's headquarters on Lake Street is in the heart of the Phillips and Powderhorn neighborhoods of Minneapolis - the center of city's American Indian population. DIW recently celebrated its 54th Anniversary of service to the community! DIW works in partnership with the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches.

With more than 24 submitted proposals to review, HYD-PRC staff and CAN members had many valuable community-based organizations to consider.

The Partners in Prevention RFP seeks to support evaluation-related work from agencies and organizations working to improve the healthy development of young people. Through this RFP process, the PRC seeks to increase its interaction with organizations that work with youth so that it can learn and share information and, together, discover ways to improve the health of young adults.
Genomics forum draws 175 attendees

More than 175 community members, health advocates, health agency leaders, as well as two dozen students, attended the October 12 Genomics Conference in St. Paul. The conference, "Genomics, Community and Equity," was designed to help develop new models and enhance existing models of community engagement to increase participation and support of genomics research. MDH's Office of Minority and Multicultural Health (OMMH) facilitated the St. Paul statewide forum in partnership with the National Community Committee (NCC) of the CDC's Prevention Research Center.

The conference included a keynote presentation by Dr. Francis Collins (photo above), Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) which was broadcast live via video link to the other forum sites--Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Missouri. Also speaking at the forum on the importance of community input in human genomics research was Cynthia Hickman, Metro epidemiologist for the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Kristin Peterson Oehlke, state genomics coordinator for MDH, and David Larsen, American Indian Studies director at Minnesota State University Mankato.

Additionally, middle school, high school and college students interested in science fields attended the conference which included a break-out session on education and career opportunities moderated by Milton English, a scientist and research associate at the National Human Genome Research Institute in Bethesda, MD.

Photo: Milton English, Ph.D., speaks with a Macalester College science student about the many career opportunities available
Glynis Shea: Mastering the message of youth development

In October, Glynis Shea, Communications Coordinator at the HYD-PRC participated in an expert panel on adolescent health communications sponsored by the CDC's National Center for Health Marketing. This newly formed group at the CDC intends to publish a set of guidelines on best practices for communicating health messages to adolescent populations. The guidelines, entitled "Principles for Communicating Health Protection Messages to Adolescents," are due to be released in 2008. To inform the product, the CDC assembled a cross-disciplinary panel for a two day meeting. Participants included adolescent health and marketing scholars, as well as representatives from youth-focused businesses and media organizations including myspace.com, MTV, BET and Yahoo.

Glynis took advantage of her time in Atlanta by conducting her communications workshop for staff and partners of GCAPP (Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting). She was also invited to present her communications work and strategies to a group of CDC staff focused on reproductive health.

To learn more contact Glynis at sheax011@umn.edu

Adolescent Health in the news...

This past summer, the HYD-PRC conducted a survey of Minnesota parents about effective sex education in schools. The survey data is being compiled for submission and publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The data shows significant support for medically accurate school curricula that includes instruction on abstinence and pregnancy prevention, as well as STD/STI prevention.

Michael Resnick was interviewed for the October 20 Star Tribune story concerning abstinence-only curriculum funding from the federal government. Dr. Resnick was also interviewed for the recent Mpls/St.Paul Magazine feature on the same subject. Read more!

In a recent edition of USATODAY, Resnick gives insight into a new Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison study about the factors that lead to early youth sexual activity; some of those factors include low self-esteem and not feeling close to parents. Read more at USATODAY.

Marla Eisenberg, researcher with the university's Division of Adolescent Health and Medicine, was interviewed by the Star Tribune concerning a large statewide survey on the health of Minnesota's college students. Read more!

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