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
MN Parent Survey on Sex Education in Schools

In March, the Healthy Youth Development·Prevention Research Center released the results of a statewide survey concerning parent attitudes on sex education in schools. The results from the 1,605 parents surveyed found that 89% supported sex education in schools that included information on abstinence as well as pregnancy prevention and STD prevention. The survey results indicated that parental support for comprehensive sex education was strong throughout Minnesota and across various demographic indicators like income, race and religious affiliation.

"Research about what works to delay a young person's first sexual experience and help prevent unintended pregnancy and STDs is consistent with what Minnesota parents want," says Dr. Michael Resnick, professor and director of the Healthy Youth Development·Prevention Research Center.

The survey results garnered press attention across Minnesota. MINNPOST covered the survey- read more. Minnesota Public Radio interviewed U of M researcher Marla Eisenberg about the survey. Read more!

For more information on the parent survey results, click here.

Peace Jam in North Minneapolis

More than 500 youth from around the region gathered for Peace Jam 2007 in north Minneapolis on April 12. Peace Jam brings together Nobel Prize winners, community leaders and young people to celebrate community unity and youth empowerment. Events included a speech by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his daughter, Naomi, music performances, and displays of service learning projects by area youth.

(photo above: During Peace Jam, Naomi Tutu signs her name to a Mother Bear while visiting with volunteers assembling bears at Broadway School)

PRC and Konopka Institute staff helped knit bears for the Mother Bear Project, one of the many Peace Jam related service learning projects on display. The Mother Bear Project provides teddy bears, knit by volunteers, to young children in Africa. Nellie Stone Johnson students
participating in Lead Peace, an HYD-PRC associated service learning project in north Minneapolis, crafted stuffed animals, called the "snuggly ugly," which they then sent to youth at a homeless shelter in Minneapolis.

(photo: At North High, Pam Russ, Village Social Services, and Koua Vou, a 7th grader at Nellie Stone Johnson, show the benefits of service learning during Peace Jam.)

Central High Student Crunches the MSS Data with PRC Fellow

Yee Xiong selected for DC competition

Yee, a senior at St. Paul's Central High, teamed up with Rachel Widome, Ph.D., a PRC Fellow at the HYD-PRC, to analyze the survey responses of the roughly 140,000 6th, 9th, and 12th grade students who took the 2007 MN Student Survey. Yee's research project, "The Effect of Working For Pay on Alcohol Consumption in Adolescents," was so impressive that she was selected to be one of 60 students invited to Washington, DC for the Young Epidemiology Scholars Competition held in early April.

Rachel Widome's mentorship of Yee (see photo) is the product of Kids Into Health Careers (KIHC), a program within the Dept. of Pediatrics in which a faculty member or fellow mentors a high school student. The two collaborate on a public health research project of progressive complexity. The KIHC program helps to engage the student in practical research methods and health science subjects while stimulating their interest in health related careers. Yee will be attending college this fall at Stanford and hopes to eventually attend medical school.

Congrats to Yee and Rachel!!

IN THE NEWS...
Community organizing = Student Achievement
A new study from the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University finds that community organizing can provide a significant boost to student achievement among young people from low-income and underserved neighborhoods.

The report, *Organized Communities, Stronger Schools: A Preview of Research Findings*, is based on preliminary results from the six-year, $4.8 million Community Involvement Program funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. The study seems to confirm that by participating in community organizing efforts, members of the community increase their civic engagement and knowledge of education issues. Read more!

Did you know?
In the last decade, the proportion of 16-year-olds in the US who hold a driver's license has dropped from nearly half to less than one-third. Many factors are contributing to the decline, including tighter laws governing teenage drivers, higher insurance costs, and the decline of school-run driver education programs.

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