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
An April 30th community forum held at the U of M on teen sexual health highlighted the need for a more comprehensive approach by schools, health agencies and communities when it comes to ensuring that young people are supported in making healthy choices. The forum, "A community conversation about young people and STDs," was sponsored by the HYD-PRC and attracted nearly 70 education, health agency, academic research, and community advocates.

The forum comes on the heels of a study issued by the CDC in March that found one in four teen girls has had an STD infection. Appearing at the community forum were leading researchers in the fields of adolescent health and teen sexual behavior. Speakers included Ward Cates, MD, president of research for Family Health International, Peter Carr from the MN Department of Health STD/HIV Program, and Michael Resnick, HYD-PRC director and professor of pediatrics and public health at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Cates was at the University of Minnesota to give the annual Morris Blum lecture during Grand Rounds at the Medical School. The community forum also benefited from the insights and expertise of Dr. Robert Blum, Ph.D., former director of the PRC’s home division (Adolescent Health and Medicine), now professor and chair of the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

HYD-PRC begins grant re-application process

The process to select a new core research project has begun at the HYD-PRC in anticipation of submitting a new PRC grant proposal later this year. A competitive RFP process is anticipated between the current 33 PRCs as well as potential new PRCs. The core research and intervention focus of the HYD-PRC will be determined through extensive dialogue between and among center staff at the U of M as well as input from the Community Advisory Network (CAN).
CAN members are encouraged to provide input on community health priorities which will help inform the process to select a new core research project that will guide the PRC grant re-application process.

**HYD-PRC staff work...**

Congratulations to **PRC Fellow Rachel Widome** for being awarded a grant from the RW Johnson Foundation to study point-of-sale tobacco promotion advertising and its impact on young people. The grant is a 1 1/2 year, $100,000 grant that will focus on Ramsey County. Rachel wrote the grant proposal during her post-doc fellowship with the PRC.

...and Best Wishes to Rachel as she begins her new position as a Core Investigator at the Center for Chronic Disease Outcomes Research (CCDOR) at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center and Assistant Professor in the Division of Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Minnesota.

**Michael Resnick**, HYD-PRC director, and **Glynis Shea**, communications coordinator, both presented at the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of North Carolina (APPCNC)/NC Public Health Conference held in May. Resnick gave the keynote address and spoke on political interference in scientific and medical research and Shea spoke on message framing around teen pregnancy prevention issues.

Welcome to **Michelle Weltzien**, the new graduate research assistant at the PRC. Michelle is about to begin her second year in the MPH-Community Health Education program at the U of M.

**IN THE NEWS...**

"Crisis" for boys in schools? not as bad, study reports

A new report by the nonprofit American Association of University Women, which promotes education and equity for women, seems to show that a "boys crisis" in U.S. schools may not be a reality and that both sexes have stayed the same or improved on standardized tests in the past decade. The study, "Where the Girls Are: The Facts About Gender Equity in Education," reviewed nearly 40 years of data on achievement from fourth grade to college and for the first time analyzed gender differences within economic and ethnic categories.

The most important conclusion of the report is that academic success is more closely associated with family income than with gender, its authors said. Read more!

Teen sex study questions "technical virginity"

Researchers at the Guttmacher Institute found that about 55 percent of surveyed teens said they had engaged in oral sex and that the practice was far more common among those who also had engaged in vaginal sex. The results suggest that teens initiate a range of sexual activities around the same time, rather than substituting one for another. Read more.

**Did you know?**
A new University of Minnesota survey of urban high schoolers from across the Midwest showed that 82% use the internet while at home and 77% have a profile on a social networking site.