



**SIERRA HEALTH FOUNDATION**  
*An Endowment for Northern California*



**REACH Youth Development Conference  
Agenda and Workshop Descriptions  
July 9, 2008 — Radisson Hotel Sacramento**

**7:30 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast**

**8:30 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**Chet Hewitt**, Sierra Health Foundation President and CEO  
**Eliseo Esparza**, Galt Area Youth Coalition member  
**Diane Littlefield**, Sierra Health Foundation Program Officer

**9:00 a.m. Keynote address: *Unlocking the Unlimited Potential of Our Youth***



**David Muhammad**

Chief of Committed Services for the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services in Washington, D.C., and former executive director of The Mentoring Center in Oakland

Growing up in the inner city of Oakland, David Muhammad overcame adversities including poverty, foster care, nearly dropping out of school and the juvenile justice system. He got involved with the renowned Omega Boys Club, which helped him turn his life around. He is a graduate of Howard University in Washington, D.C., has had a successful journalism career, turned The Mentoring Center in Oakland into a premier agency serving highly at-risk youth in the Bay Area, received numerous awards for his work with youth, and now serves as chief of Committed Services for Washington, D.C.'s juvenile justice system.

Mr. Muhammad will talk about:

- The principles of positive youth development
- How I have gone from juvenile delinquent to juvenile justice system administrator
- The mentoring spirit: the passion to help our youth
- Intervening in a trauma-based behavior cycle
- Understanding cultural competency

10:00 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Breakout Sessions:

A-1: ***Quality Matters: Making the Case for Investing in Youth Program Quality***

Presenter: Deb Craig, Center for Youth Program Quality, Washington D.C.

This workshop is geared toward executive directors, policy-makers, youth program funders, business leaders and program managers who work with a broad cross-section of youth programs — in school and out of school. The workshop will be mostly presentation with some small- and large-group reflection on the concepts: Quality Matters, Quality is Measurable and Quality is Malleable. Participants will leave with an understanding of why investing in quality pays off, and how quality can be measured based on what the field has learned over the past decade. Participants will receive a framework to improve quality at the organizational and system levels, and gain knowledge of what needs to be in place in organizations and communities to support high-quality youth programs that lead to better outcomes for youth.



A-2: ***Digital Stories and Youth Empowerment: California Voices***

Presenters: John Minkler, Center for Multicultural Cooperation  
Adriana Espinoza-Venegas, Marivel Gandara, Angelina Barron

See what happens when students engage in this new after-school service-learning program, documenting the struggles, triumphs and spirit of service of older generations who have made significant contributions to their culture, community and country. Youth produce and present digital video mini-documentaries, developing academic, civic and career skills, while interacting with inspiring elders. The California Voices program brings a new opportunity for youth media production and networking to the Sacramento region.



A-3: ***Everyone Has a Gift: Ending Poverty and Caring for the Earth***

Presenters: Betsy Young and Renee Mungas, Heifer International  
Nicole Young

What do goats, cows and bees have to do with fighting HIV/AIDS, protecting our environment, and ending hunger and poverty around the world? This interactive workshop will offer participants the opportunity to explore issues of global hunger and poverty through conversation, activities, videos and more! Participants will leave with concrete strategies for raising awareness and working toward a just and sustainable future for women, children and families around the world. An excellent resource for community and faith-based organizations, school clubs, teachers and educators, and youth and adults of all ages interested in using their skills, talents and passion to make a positive difference!



**A-4: *Serving Youth in the Juvenile Justice System and Expelled Youth***

Presenters: Linda Mitchell, Sacramento County Office of Education  
Steve Streeter, City of Sacramento Office of Youth Development  
Zachary Stevenson, Sacramento Employment Training Program

This workshop will describe the City of Sacramento's strategies to address youth and gang violence prevention and intervention. Participants also will learn about LINKS, a SCOE-run program that helps expelled youth and court youth get back into regular high schools. It is innovative in that it uses service learning and career tech to help youth find their passions and skills to become re-engaged in school.



**A-5: *Ready by 21 — Communities Organizing to Ensure Youth Success for College, Work and Life***

Presenters: Debbi Herr and Stephanie Root, Georgetown Divide Ready by 21  
Jay Schenirer, Nick Rojas, Lilly Rankins, Capital Region Ready by 21

This workshop is for executive directors, policy-makers and anyone else who is interested in creating change in their community to impact the success of youth at a systems, planning or policy level. Learn about the national effort of Ready by 21, hosted by The Forum for Youth Investment, to create community change for youth. The workshop will describe how the Black Oak Mine School District partners with the Georgetown Divide community and has created a community plan across ages 0 to 21 to support youth using the Ready by 21 planning tools. You will receive copies of the planning tools and learn how to get trained in the tools this fall. Also described will be the Capital Region Ready by 21 coalition and the work members are doing to create community awareness around the support youth need to succeed through a community compact, a parent resource guide, use of Healthy Kids survey data and training youth as advocates.



**A-6: *School Community Partnerships***

Presenters: Renee Newton, UC Davis Center for Community School Partnerships  
Linda Burkholder, Folsom Cordova Unified School District  
Derrell Roberts, Roberts Family Development Center  
Sylvia Fort, City of Sacramento Recreation and Human Services

This workshop will describe various efforts to create partnerships between school and community for student success. FCUSD will describe how the district has a combination of integrated learning supports, after-school offerings and parent engagement strategies, and how they partner with the community on each of these strategies. Roberts Family Development Center will discuss how partnerships with parents and families can strengthen student success and youth well-being. City of Sacramento Recreation and Human Services will describe how efforts at Rosa Parks Elementary School were expanded through healthy partnerships between the school and the city agency.



**A-7: Learning How to Seek and Secure a Summer Job (Youth Lounge)**

Presenters: Christina DeMoss-Giffin, City of Sacramento  
Office of Youth Development  
Tatiana DeLeon, Rha'mond Jackson

This youth-led, fun and informative workshop will focus on how to seek and secure employment. Workshop features include: an interview fashion show, employer expectations game show, fun employment scenarios and hilarious mock interviews. These are just a few ways we will explore what employers are looking for, how and where to get a job and the most serious do's and don'ts.



**A-8: Youth-Led Research for Educational Equity in Davis, CA**

Presenters: Jann Murray-García, M.D., M.P.H.  
Jane Cho and Maryam Dolatshahi, Catalysts for Social Justice Student  
Research Scholars, Davis High

The CSJ Scholars will present five years of data from this youth-led research and advocacy initiative, representing three cohorts of Student Research Scholars. The Scholars' data demonstrate racial inequities in achievement and discipline, even in this high-performing district. Students' perceptions of racially different expectations held by teachers, counselors, classmates, etc., were found in both qualitative (student focus groups) and quantitative (more than 1,000 student surveys) approaches in this student research. The CSJ Scholars have presented their findings to audiences as far away as China and New York, as well as before the State Legislature in Sacramento.



**A-9: Unleash the Power of Youth!**

Presenters: Sher Moua, Youth Service California  
Elena Frink and Bryn Hobson,  
California Youth Service-Learning Ambassadors  
Lucia Prado and John Durand, Galt Area Youth Coalition  
Mike Brugh, California Department of Education  
Michael Stark, Region 3 Service Learning Trainer

Unleashing the authentic power of youth is the key to making service learning an exciting youth development strategy. This interactive workshop will introduce hands-on tools that promote effective youth involvement in all phases of service learning. Participants will use an assessment guide that encourages integration of youth voice into the planning, implementation and evaluation of service-learning projects.



**A-10: Youth Development 101**

Presenters: Andy Paul and Stacy Shwartz-Olagundoye, Youth Development Network

What is Youth Development? Why is it a critical piece of any successful youth program? What does Youth Development have to do with youth feeling emotionally safe or having input and decision-making opportunities in their programs? Where can I learn more about this? Come participate in the YD 101 workshop and have these questions, along with many others, answered!



**12:00 p.m. Lunch and Special Presentation in Edgewater A & B**

**12:45 p.m. Music by The Late Chaps**



**1:00 p.m. Guest Speaker: *My View***



**Shuntae Campbell**  
Youth Organizer  
Sacramento Area Congregations Together

Shuntae Campbell, 18, grew up in Meadowview. He is a former gang member who has been fortunate enough to find a different path directing him away from gang violence. As a youth organizer for Sacramento Area Congregations Together, he is part of a major movement to help youth see how important leadership is. Mr. Campbell will share his story about going from being a gang member to being a leader in his community who represents change and who is a voice for Meadowview youth.

**Guest Speaker: *Preventing Disconnection and Promoting Reconnection for Disadvantaged Youth: A Cross-Systems Approach***



**Jenny Bogoni**  
Vice President of Partnerships  
Philadelphia Youth Network

In October 2006, Philadelphia launched Project U-Turn, a citywide campaign managed by the Philadelphia Youth Network, to focus public attention on Philadelphia's dropout crisis and to design strategies and leverage investments to resolve it. Since the project began, the city has raised more than \$10 million for new educational options, the school district has opened a Re-Engagement Center, there is dropout prevention legislation pending in the state government and the new mayor has made reducing the dropout rate one of the top goals of his agenda. Ms. Bogoni will discuss the evolution of the Philadelphia Youth Network and the role it has played in helping young people be successful, how Project U-Turn came to be, and the cross-systems approach to prevention and re-engagement of disconnected and disadvantaged youth that has made it so successful.

**2:00 p.m. Break**

**2:15 p.m. Breakout Sessions:**

**B-1: *Quality Counts: Building Local Capacity for Youth Program Quality***

Presenters: Deb Craig, The Center for Youth Program Quality  
Debbi Herr and Stephanie Root, Georgetown Divide  
Ready by 21 Coalition

This workshop is geared toward executive directors, policy-makers, youth program funders, business leaders, program managers, supervisors and front line staff. Participants will get an in-depth review of the Youth Program Quality Assessment, a research-validated tool designed for youth development practitioners and administrators working in schools and in out-of-school programs targeting 4th-12th grades. The tool was developed by the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation and is based on 40 years of research and practice in the participatory learning approach. Participants will receive a copy of the instrument, become familiar with each of its elements and learn ways the data can be collected and used. Participants will hear more about the Quality Counts initiative and how the region is organizing to build capacity for program quality by offering a series of free training opportunities beginning in fall 2008.

A

**B-2: *Academic Success for Underrepresented Youth***

Presenters: Suzanne Mayes, Consultant  
Carrie Rose, Parent Teacher Home Visit Project  
Shelia Sidqe, Hiram Johnson High School  
Adolpho Mercado, Breakthrough Sacramento

This session will focus on supporting the academic success of underrepresented youth. The idea is to show how schools and community partners can create programs to support youth during the transition from middle school to high school and then to college. Representatives from three unique programs will share information about their programs and best practices, and the importance of creating strong partnerships. Session participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss key challenges facing the field.

A

**B-3: *Jobs for Youth***

Presenters: John Fox, American Legion High School  
Alli Swan, Sherlyn Warner, Sacramento Area Congregations Together  
(ACT Meadowview Partnership)  
Julie Davis-Jaffe, SETA One Stop Career Center/WIA youth program

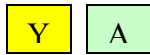
What can you do to increase youth jobs in your community? How can you build workforce readiness skills in youth? What can you do to make existing employment opportunities more meaningful? And, how can you work to expand the pool of youth employers in your area? This workshop will address current strategies being implemented by the ACT Meadowview Partnership that can be applied to local communities.

A

**B-4: *Breaking the Ice***

Presenters: Debbie Carrion, Yolo County ADMH – Friday Night Live  
Sandra Holguin, Angela Angel, Cassie Rudy, Jasmine Weathers

This workshop will introduce participants to a variety of icebreakers they can use at work, school or with family. The purpose of icebreakers is to introduce people to one another, break down barriers, make everyone feel comfortable and have fun! They also can increase energy levels, participation and interest in a group. Incorporating a variety of icebreakers throughout your meetings/activities/trainings to keep everyone awake and enthusiastic is very important!



**B-5: *Youth-led Blueprints for Community Resource Center***

Presenters: Jesus S. Sanchez, Youth In Focus  
Seetha Ream-Roa and Jolene Duren

The Met Independent Charter School in Sacramento identified the need for a one-stop information center. By assessing the needs of students, youth developed a research process that cultivated the makings of a youth-initiated resource center on their campus. To assess the needs of the Met student body, students interviewed youth-serving agencies, organizations and youth internship programs, and surveyed their entire campus to implement their one-stop shop. Join us as we illustrate the process of youth-led action research, and its various outcomes in engaging youth in developing strategies to meet the needs of students.



**B-6: *Youth Voice Creating Change: Creating and Supporting Youth Groups/Councils***

Presenters: Rogelio Villagrana, Woodland Coalition for Youth  
Andie Barba, Jesus Ramos, Eduardo Ramos and Antonio Romero,  
Woodland Youth Council members

This workshop highlights the youth development strategies of groups such as the Woodland Youth Council, a panel of two dozen young people ages 10 to 17 working with adults as part of the Woodland Coalition for Youth. Participants will be provided with real-life examples of what has worked and what has not. Participants will increase their awareness of successful engagement approaches to youth development.



**B-7: *Find Your Voice, Follow Your Passion, Take Action***

Presenters: Sean Clavere, 16-year-old Oak Ridge High School student, musician and songwriter, founder of the Reach Out and Teach benefit concert for the Goma Student Fund and member of Vision Coalition of El Dorado Hills  
Della Clavere, M.O.M., Community Liaison for Vision Coalition  
Vision Coalition youth

This youth-led workshop, presented seriously in a light-hearted way, will inspire youth and adults alike to find their voice and follow their passion — whether it is music, poetry, live-action film production or (you fill in the blank) — to create positive change in their communities and, in some cases, in the world outside their communities. Sean will present a step-by-step analysis of how to enact real change using the Reach Out and Teach concert as a model. Next up, other youth will share what they did to find their voice and follow their

passion and what they hope to accomplish by their action. Della will then facilitate an interactive activity where attendees can look at not only problems in their communities, but what is going right in their communities and then brainstorm ways to use their voice and their passion to take action.



**B-8: *On the Wild Side: A Story of Successful Youth-Adult Partnership***

Presenters: Marianne Bird, 4-H Youth Development Program, Sacramento County  
Maddy O'Neil, Alex Johnson, Haile Canton, Rita Boyes, Enida Gonzalez

This workshop showcases On the Wild Side, a teen-planned program that brings outdoor living and learning experiences to youth who likely wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to investigate a lake or sleep under the stars. The environment is on everyone's minds, and youth today spend less time outside exploring the natural world. On the Wild Side has proven its effectiveness as a fun, engaging environmental education program, one led by teens that meets an important community need. Come learn about the program, the basics of successful youth-adult partnership, cooperative program planning and how the group measures its results.



**B-9: *Are You Really Making a Difference?***

Workshop Presenters: Nicole Jarred, Center for Multicultural Cooperation  
Joanne Bookmyer, UC Davis Center for Community School Partnerships  
John Durand and Janet Munoz, Galt Area Youth Coalition

In this workshop you will learn about planning your organization's work with the end in mind. Presenters will define the difference between problem, process and outcome-focused approaches to youth development work and introduce the concept of results-based accountability. Participants will leave with examples and tools that have the potential to increase their organization's understanding of the effects of their work in their communities.



**B10: *Hip Hop It Don't Stop, School Reform It Can't Be Stopped! (Youth Lounge)***

Workshop Presenters: Kindra F. Montgomery, UC Davis  
bel Reyes and Chaez Boswell, Youth Development Network  
Vajra Obolu, United Playaz, San Francisco

Hip Hop and School Reform — promoting engaged learning through the critical consciousness of Hip Hop culture. This workshop seeks to increase the value of Hip Hop and its creative expression practices as a means to influence school reform.



**4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks by Chet Hewitt ... and a raffle!**

**4:30 p.m. Adjourn**