

Youth Community Connections: Minnesota Partners for Healthy Youth Development



Community Youth Connections, formerly The Minnesota Out-of-School Time Partnership, is a

network of public and private organizations dedicated to the belief that all Minnesota communities must ensure options for children and youth to learn, develop, and contribute during non-school hours.

history

The Out-of-School Time Partnership was created in

2001 when an advisory group to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) recognized a need to increase public awareness about out-of-school time activities for youth (ages 5-18) and ensure that communities throughout the state had quality programs and services available to families and their children. This dedicated group of people and organizations laid the groundwork for this new organization.

goals

- ◆ Increase public awareness and support for out-of-school time opportunities for children and youth.
- ◆ Ensure that all children and youth have access to sustainable, quality out-of-school time programs and activities.
- ◆ Create and sustain an integrated, statewide capacity-building system to increase the effectiveness and impact of out-of-school time programs.

today

Youth Community

Connections (YCC) has grown in membership and activity, expanding from a group of about a dozen members to seventy entities representing statewide advocacy membership groups, state agencies, field support and program provider organizations, universities and colleges, as well as funders and foundations.

Success has meant transitioning from an informal collaborative to a fund-raising, work-plan driven partnership with clear goals and a strategy for the future. These successes include:

- The establishment of four working groups; sustainability, field support, policy, and communications.
- A joint partnership with the University of Minnesota to sponsor the first ever Commission on Out-of-School Time report (report is available at www.mncost.org)
- FrameWorks communications research

future

Inspired by a well documented

need and guided by collaboratively developed goals, YCC looks forward to an active, engaged future.

The power of the partnership increases with each new member!

you

You can affect youth access to quality out-

of-school time programs and activities. Here's how:

- Join YCC! Send an email to Ceil Meade at cam@umn.edu to get on-board.
- Sign up for a workgroup. Visit the YCC web site to get connected. www.mnywi.org/mnpost.html
- Learn more about the issues surrounding out-of-school time at the Commission's web site www.mncost.org

Youth Community Connections

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