

IN THE KNOW

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Yes, we have a newsletter!

BY MELINDA PEPIN, NH TEEN INSTITUTE



Welcome to the first issue of the NATI newsletter. It has been a long time coming for a resource like this, and all of us on the NATI Board are excited about this new opportunity to connect with Teen Institutes across the country. Our hope is that this newsletter becomes a vital communication tool among the Institutes, providing everyone an opportunity to share ideas and resources, gain insights, and find out what Teen Institutes are doing to make a difference!

Submissions from any and all Teen Institutes are welcome to help spread the word about your prevention efforts! In future issues we hope to contain a toolbox which would be used to share resources, grant information, research options and any other 'tools' that

might be helpful to our Teen Institutes. The youth page would contain articles and information submitted by our youth and information about the achievements and awards bestowed upon them. We will be producing our newsletter twice a year, once in the winter and once in the summer.

Again, welcome. We look forward to working with all of you to move the efforts of Teen Institute into the forefront of 21st Century Prevention efforts!

Submission Guidelines

To aid our newsletter staff in production, the following guidelines have been assembled. Please follow them closely. Thank you!

- Always include your name, your organization's name and your e-mail address in the body of your submission.
- When submitting articles and information by e-mail write "NATI Newsletter Submission" in the subject line.
- Check your files for viruses BEFORE sending them to us.
- Articles can be e-mailed, faxed or mailed in for submission: Fax - (603) 882-2813 E-mail - peprou@earthlink.net Mail - Melinda Pepin
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NATI joins others to "Make Some NOYS" in Hawaii

BY DEBRA J. SLOVER, NATI PRESIDENT

ADAPTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY JAN MEEKER, NOYS CONFERENCE CHAIR

Youth representatives and staff of five members of the National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS) have joined together to produce the first teen collaborative conference focused on highway safety, safe communities, alcohol and other drugs, injury prevention, and other issues related to teens. In the true spirit and purpose of NOYS, their resources and program conducted by youth for youth to make wise and healthy lifestyle choices will be showcased in July 2001 at a four day conference.

The state conference host is the Hawaii Department of Education's Safe and Community Youth Activities Program. Theme for the conference is "I Mua Kakou-Moving Forward Together for Safer Communities." Over 30 workshop presentations will be featured.

Hawaii's program is a member of the National Student Safety Program (NSSP), which is taking the lead on planning this first-time event for NOYS. The 43 year old NSSP program is focused on highway safety issues for teens. NATI, a member of NOYS, is joining with NSSP, the National Safety Council (NSC), United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY), and the Recording Artist Against Drunk Driving (RADD) to help plan the conference.

The vision of the group is to hold an inclusive, collaborative youth conference focused around safety

with a mix of cultures, ideas, and life experiences which will empower youth to take action. The conference mission is to unite youth organizations to share resources, provide leadership opportunities, educate others about highway safety issues, and to promote healthy choices/lifestyles which will improve



communities. Youth will be encouraged to be proactive and will develop action plans to implement safety programs in their schools and local communities at the conference.

Collaboration is the heart of the NOYS organization and the safe community programs of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The conference is expected to draw over 1,000 teens. The NOYS Conference committee is actively recruiting other youth organizations to participate, state programs for workshop presentations and exhibitors for the conference. State programs that have committed to be part of the conference are: Arkansas Teens Are Concerned (TAC), Oregon Student Safety On the Move (OSSOM), South Carolina's Cruiser's Program and the host group Hawaii's

Teens for Safer Communities Coalition.

Four members of the NATI board had the pleasure of traveling to Honolulu, Hawaii in February 2000 to participate in the first planning meeting for this effort. Participating youth board members were Joe Peck from Oregon, and Danielle Schmick from Wisconsin. Jessica Andrews from Georgia, who serves as the Youth Affairs Committee Liaison, and Debra Slover from Oregon, NATI President accompanied the youth.

This is an excellent conference opportunity for Teen Institutes from across the country to consider promoting among their local TI participants. The focus of the annual NATI conference, held each year in a different state, is on professional development of NATI Program member directors, staff and youth leaders. The intended outcome is to strengthen our existing teen institute programs and help new TI programs get started. The Teen Collaborative Conference will give our youth the opportunity to network and share our TI programs with youth from other organizations from around the country.

As final information becomes available it will be posted on our Web Site, www.teeninstitute.org, and all NATI members will be invited to attend.

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1999 NATI Conference

BY YUVON MOBLEY, FLORIDA

What do you get when you mix more than 100 youth leaders along with Florida and the sun?

One exciting national conference! And that is exactly what happened at NATI's 1999 Annual Conference in Florida. Despite the fact that Atlantic Beach was experiencing Red Tide, the show continued to go on. With the beach in our backyard, some of the best keynote speakers and presenters, and a natural high beach party, fun was only one part of the adventure. With a theme of "Planet Prevention," this year's conference also prepared conference attendees for the task of bringing youth leadership into the new millennium.

In total there were 121 participants present with 112 program members and 9 non-program members in attendance. The breakdown of number of participants by states is as follows: Florida, 28; New Jersey, 15; Los Angeles, 11; Georgia, 10; Vermont, 9; Kentucky, 7; Oregon, 7; West Virginia, 6; New Hampshire, 5; Wisconsin, 5; Maine, 4; Montana, 3;



Illinois, 2; New York, 2; Ohio, 2; Rhode Island, 2; Indiana, 1; Iowa, 1; and Tennessee, 1.

As a Florida native myself, I have to admit that NATI's 1999 Conference was one of the best of the century, and the last in the century. Every time I see that bright green conference shirt peaking out at me from under a pile of dirty laundry, I will always remember the time we had here in Florida. But don't worry, because I hope to see everyone again at the year 2000 conference in Chicago. And as we say down here in Florida, "Ya'll come back now, ya hear!"

Congratulations

Congratulations go out to NATI Youth Board Member Yuvon Mobley who is the Florida S.A.D.D. Student of the Year. She will be representing all the SADD chapters in Florida and serving on the SADD student leadership council which is comprised of 16 SADD leaders from across the nation who were also nominated by their individual state for this honor. The purpose of the council is to provide a student voice on issues such as underage drinking, impaired driving, teen suicide, violence and date rape. SADD's mission is to provide students with the best prevention and intervention tools possible to deal with the serious issues young adults are facing today. Way to go Yuvon!

Project Y.E.S.

BY NICCI CORNWELL

Y.E.S. What does this one small word mean? To some, it may have a positive connotation, to others it may be an agreement of some sort. To me, Y.E.S. means something great. It is Project Y.E.S.. Y.E.S. stands for Youth Enrichment Services. I am currently a co-chairperson for Project Y.E.S.; meaning that I, along with Heather Perdue, organize meetings, and direct them. Y.E.S. is made up of a group of about six teenagers and three adults. Y.E.S. has helped the pre-teens and teenagers in our small community in many ways.

Project Y.E.S. was originated in March 1999. In July of that year a team of six youth attended West Virginia State Teen Institute. From this group sprang forth the youth advisory board for Project Y.E.S. Three of the youth currently on the board remain from the original six, Heather Perdue, Tiraah Hunt, and myself, Nicci Cornwell. When we arrived at WVTI 99, we were shocked to find ourselves surrounded by so many cheerful and happy teenagers. Overall, WVTI was a great experience for our entire group, bringing out leadership qualities that were natural in each of us. We learned many techniques and were given many ideas that we brought back to our community. We had a fantastic experience and hope to return as part of the youth staff.

Project Y.E.S. was created to give teens and pre-teens a chance to have fun and be drug, alcohol and

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tobacco free at the same time. Since the institution of Project Y.E.S., both the community and the schools have received benefits. Project Y.E.S., with the support of local community businesses and a mini-grant through state Teen Institute has been able to hold healthy drug free activities that promote an abstinence message in all risky behaviors that we as youth face today. We have held dances at the local Y.M.C.A. and the Bluefield Recreation Center. We have held skating parties at the local skating rink and provided a night of games to area high school students. The attendance by both middle school students at their events and the high school students at their events has been very high.

In November 1999, I was honored

by the Regional America's Promise organization for my leadership abilities with Project Y.E.S. I received the "Little Red Wagon" for my participation and organizational skills with the Project Y.E.S. events. Project Y.E.S. started as a project of the Safe and Structured Places Committee, a committee of Mercer's Promise that stemmed directly from the National America's Promise Campaign. I was both honored and surprised to be nominated and elected to receive such a prestigious award. I attribute part of the success of this entire organization to skills that were honed at West Virginia Teen Institute and look forward to a long relationship with such a positive organization.

New YACs

BY CHRIS BELDING, NH TEEN INSTITUTE

If you were at the NATI Conference in Jacksonville, FL, then you must have seen the Youth Affairs Committee. They were the ones who got the highly demanded cool looking hats! They also had to hand select the YACs for next year. A lot of applicants were interviewed and all were great. But, in the end, Joe Peck from Oregon, Danielle Schmick from Wisconsin, and Devin Quinlan from Vermont were selected. You will see them and our returning youth board members, Yvonne, Bryonn, and Chris, at the Chicago 2000 Conference. Great job to everyone who made the conference become a reality!

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