



- www.theinnovationcenter.org
- [How We Work](#)
- [Consulting](#)
- [Catalog](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

From the President



WENDY WHEELER, President,
Innovation Center for Community
and Youth Development

Embattled West Virginia community builds spirit through Youth-Adult Partnerships

Through our work on the Kellogg Leadership for Community Change (KLCC) project, I've been able to travel the country meeting local leaders striving to make their hometowns better. One of these people is Marsha Timpson of Big Creek People in Action (BCPIA) in War, West Virginia.

Marsha's story defines the challenges and power in bringing new voices to the table. Her perspective will be included in our soon-to-be published toolkit based on KLCC. I applaud Marsha's vision and leadership, and I'm delighted to share her story below.

"In our community, it goes back to days when the coal operators were there. The superintendent's house was on the top of the hill. They look down over everyone else. The foremen's houses were just below the superintendents, over the coal miners. The coal miners never had a voice. If they wanted something, they went to the foreman and the foreman went to the superintendent. That same attitude has continued, even after the coal mines closed.

KLCC is giving us back our voices. It started with BCPIA and it's rippling out. At BCPIA we've decided to send one adult and one youth to Board of Education meetings. This has never been done before. People never go the Board of Education meetings. By going to the meetings, we are doing more than making sure our voices are heard. We are showing people in the community that their voices are important and can be heard, too.

We've also met with the past superintendent of schools. We hosted a dinner so we could build a relationship and talk about the issues. We signed a letter of agreement with him in



For more information about Innovation Center toolkits and resources, visit www.theinnovationcenter.org

INNOVATION CENTER SALE

Free shipping on all toolkits for the entire month of May!!

Check out our toolkits out at http://www.theinnovationcenter.org/r_toolkits.asp

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy Wheeler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Wendy Wheeler
President and CEO