



From the President



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

Summer Camp, Youth Development, and the Art of Service

Authentic youth development occurs in all kinds of settings. The [Innovation Center](#) is committed to advancing youth development in a host of different environments - afterschool programs, community-based organizations, informal science institutions, just to name a few. With summertime fast approaching, we are thrilled to add yet another setting to the list: camps!

We are pleased to announce our alliance with the American Camp Association (ACA) to promote collective leadership strategies that are relevant for camps and other youth development settings. The collective leadership model fosters youth-adult partnerships, taps into individual gifts, mobilizes community assets, builds teamwork, and promotes ongoing reflection. "We feel that collective leadership is a perfect fit for camps," IC Senior Director Carla Roach said. "It highlights practical ways to involve young people - and other community stakeholders - in program planning, implementation, and evaluation."

As part of the alliance, we will be working with ACA to develop a series of webinars that take an interactive look at the concepts, skills, opportunities and resources that support collective leadership. The webinars are designed for an audience of camp directors and camp staff; however, they are available to everyone and present collective leadership in a format you can easily apply to your own work.

The first webinar will take place Tuesday, May 18, 2010. It will focus on developing youth-adult partnerships. [Learn more](#) about the webinar and [register](#) for the event.

Activity of the Month: Examining Youth-Adult Partnerships

Creating authentic youth-adult partnership require both parties to overcome traditional youth and adult roles. It takes work, commitment, and intentionality. Role-playing is one of the ways IC trainers help young people and adults prepare for youth-adult partnerships. This activity, from the IC's toolkit *Creating Youth-Adult Partnerships*, familiarizes participants with the dynamics of typical youth-adult relationships and challenges participants to improve their own relationships in constructive ways. [Check out the activity...](#)

Partner of the Month: Youth as Leaders in New Haven, Connecticut

New Haven, Connecticut is not known as an arts capital of the modern world. Rather, in recent years, connotations of life in the city have been overwhelmingly negative. Nevertheless, a group of New Haven middle schoolers, Youth as Leaders (YAL) of New Haven's Easter Seals Goodwill Industries, have committed themselves to serving their community by uncovering and highlighting how the arts play a positive role in neighborhood life. [Read more...](#)





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Our postal address is
6930 Carroll Avenue
Suite 502
Takoma Park, Maryland 20912-4423
United States