Youth Voices in Community Action and Governance

V(A). Planned Program (Summary)

1. Name of the Planned Program
Youth Voices in Community Action and Governance

V(B). Program Knowledge Area(s)

1. Program Knowledge Areas and Percentage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KA Code</th>
<th>Knowledge Area</th>
<th>% 1862 Extension</th>
<th>% 1890 Extension</th>
<th>% 1862 Research</th>
<th>% 1890 Research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>806</td>
<td>Youth Development</td>
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Total 100%

V(C). Planned Program (Inputs)

1. Actual amount of professional FTE/SYs expended this Program

<table>
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2. Actual dollars expended in this Program (includes Carryover Funds from previous years)

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<td>1862 All Other</td>
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V(D). Planned Program (Activity)

1. Brief description of the Activity
Youth Voices in Community Action and Governance

Campus and county faculty provide training to youth and adults; develop toolkits, curricula and resources in support of youth governance and community action;

Training youth and adults: The statewide Youth Voices in Community Action and Governance Team provides research-based training, educational resources and experiences with participatory democracy and juvenile justice, engaging youth in community decision-making and community governance, working with elected officials to establish youth positions on public boards, councils, and teen courts, and training adults on effectively working with youth as partners. Youth gain understanding of how decisions are made and develop skills to plan, organize and communicate effectively.

In Teen Court, trained middle and high school jurors hear cases of other school-age youth cited for first time misdemeanors such as shoplifting, truancy or vandalism. Each volunteer attends trainings to identify and practice respectful, non-confrontational questioning techniques that clarify the situation. In a 2005 survey, extension-supported Teen Courts reported 560 youth volunteers trained as jurors and 89 adult volunteers trained as supervisors. For example, Columbia County youth development educator Karen Nelson has taught team building and effective questioning since 2004. Trained teen court volunteers in turn train their inexperienced peers. Through this train-the-trainer approach, new volunteers including former juvenile offenders learn the importance of their role directly from youth already participating.

Developing toolkits, curricula and resources in support of youth governance and community action: A research team — graduate student Julie Petrokubi (UW-Madison), state evaluation specialist Matt Calvert and county youth development educators Connie Abert (Waupaca), Deb Jones (Jackson), and Debbie Moellendorf (Lincoln) — conducted case studies of youth-adult partnerships. To learn how groups are effective in making the transition from adult governance to youth-adult partnerships in governance, researchers visited each county site twice, conducted youth and adult focus groups, interviewed staff and key stakeholders, and observed meetings. Staff reports, researcher observations, and a post-training workshop survey measured learning and community change.

Extension colleagues and other youth professionals are using the Wisconsin Youth-Adult partnership Study summary report and tools for building effective youth-adult partnerships, including key stakeholders to engage in innovation, management goals and strategies, and identifying leverage points for change — underlying organizational and community conditions that can serve as either barriers or supports, such as self-interest, personal experience, collective story, champions, social networks, role identification, infrastructure, knowledge and practice. A framework and implications for more strategic program development were shared with state colleagues through district workshops and at the 2006 National 4-H Agents Association Conference.

2. Brief description of the target audience
Youth Voices in Community Action and Governance

The Youth Voices in Community Action and Governance Team provides research-based education, resources and capacity-building support to youth and adult volunteers. During 2007, 49,635 Wisconsin youth enrolled in 4-H Citizenship and Civic Education, Personal Development and Leadership programs. Of the 5,851 adults reached through direct teaching methods in 2007, less than 1% (66) identified as Latino/a, who may be of any race. The 2,393 volunteers trained made additional teaching contacts.

Youth and adult volunteers work together in positions of shared responsibility, making decisions and taking actions to strengthen communities, organizations, coalitions and programs. Youth include middle and high school students trained to serve in Teen Courts hearing misdemeanor cases of their peers, on junior fair boards, dairy and exhibits committees, 4-H boards of directors, 4-H leader councils, school board committees, 4-H after-school program steering committees, community service, trails, triathlon and other city council committees, county boards of supervisors, tobacco-free, nutrition, activity and grassroots community action coalitions such as the multi-county Superior Days.

Community partners include coalitions and government bodies that create meaningful roles for young people in making decisions and sharing governance with adults, such as 4-H clubs and groups, 4-H after-school programs, 4-H leader boards, steering committees and advisory groups, Future Farmers of America, schools, school boards and school districts, city councils, police and sheriff departments, county fair boards and boards of supervisors, service groups, non-profit organizations that provide volunteer positions for youth, and the 120-member agency coalition Youth as Partners in Civic Leadership.

UW-Extension colleagues include 4-H youth development, state and national family living, community resource development and agriculture campus and county educators, 4-H program advisors in Wisconsin and nationwide.

Educational partners include the Wisconsin Association of County Extension Committees (WACEC), National Youth in Governance Initiative, Wisconsin and National Association of Youth Courts, county juvenile courts and juvenile justice committees, county and tribal health departments, and the 8-county Superior Days coalition. County 4-H Leader Boards also foster youth-adult partnerships, setting direction for 4-H education such as the new 4-H after-school programs.

Ultimate beneficiaries include library patrons, teens using drop-in centers, skaters, dancers, hikers, triathletes, 4-H club and fair participants, after-school program participants, their parents and parents’ employers, first-time juvenile offenders and their parents.

V(E). Planned Program (Outputs)

1. Standard output measures

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Indirect Contacts Adults</th>
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2. Number of Patent Applications Submitted (Standard Research Output)

Patent Applications Submitted

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Patents listed
Youth Voices in Community Action and Governance

3. Publications (Standard General Output Measure)

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V(F). State Defined Outputs

Output Target
Output #1

Output Measure
- {No Data Entered}

*Not reporting on this Output in this Annual Report*

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<tbody>
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Report Date 12/03/2009
V(G). State Defined Outcomes

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<th>O No.</th>
<th>Outcome Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Young people that reflect community diversity work in local groups to make decisions with consequences for the organization, community or public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Communities, organizations, coalitions, and programs are strengthened by the involvement of youth in decision-making.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Skilled and experienced youth and adults are available for community decision-making and leadership roles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Community organizations, coalitions, and government bodies improve practices and policies that support youth engagement.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1. Outcome Measures
   Young people that reflect community diversity work in local groups to make decisions with consequences for the organization, community or public.

2. Associated Institution Types
   • 1862 Extension

3a. Outcome Type:
   Change in Action Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>2007</td>
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3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)
Local models exist across Wisconsin to support various forms of youth engagement in communities. However, the youth and adults participating in these models have few places to connect on a state level. County issue statements emphasized the need for young people to become active and productive citizens. To ensure sustainable youth involvement in public decision-making, supporting infrastructure is needed.

What has been done
State 4-H Youth Development evaluation specialist Matthew Calvert led an initiative to address needs identified by stakeholders, creating a multi-agency youth-adult partnership to build capacity among statewide youth-serving organizations and promote youth in governance. The new 120-member coalition Youth as Partners in Civic Leadership (YPCL) is dedicated to increasing the capacity for youth and adults to share civic leadership in local communities, schools, state-level organizations and government bodies by advocating for Youth, Mentoring and networking. In 2007, YPCL worked to strengthen partnerships with statewide youth organizations. Calvert again chaired the committee organizing the three-day YPCL Explosions of Ideas and Actions Conference. 28 youth and adults representing 8 organizations played roles in conference planning. Financial contributions of $17,650 were received from seven government and private sources. 86 youth and 38 adults formed 15 conference teams -- 20% represented 4-H, 18% school groups, 14% community-based groups and 8% Teen Courts.

Diversity was promoted through sponsoring partnerships and scholarships, which resulted in youth/adult teams attending from urban communities of Milwaukee to rural northern Florence and Jackson counties and southwest Grant County -- 40 percent from cities and suburbs and 60 percent from rural areas. Of the 126 conference participants, 67 percent were white, 19 percent were African American and 6 percent identified as Latino/a, who may be of any race. New organizations included the Wisconsin Association of Teen Courts, 4-H Operation Military Kids, Urban Underground, Wisconsin Brighter Futures, and Wisconsin Youth Voice -- youth and adults representing 40 groups including departments from the executive branch, interested legislators, higher education, non-profit and advocacy organizations.

Results
Behavior, skill and attitude changes for youth and adults were measured through post-conference surveys completed by 88 of the 126 participants, and reflective conversations with 20 key YPCL partners from 6 organizations. Communities are working to develop Teen Courts and have reported efforts to involve youth in government boards as a result of the conference. For example, the Florence County team engaged artists they met at the conference and community members of all ages to create a visual representation of their community, and received prominent local media coverage. Public service announcements created at the conference aired on radio stations. Conference teams submitted written plans and updates on actions taken as a result of participating in YPCL activities: http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/yig/YPCL.cfm

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KA Code</th>
<th>Knowledge Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>806</td>
<td>Youth Development</td>
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</table>

Report Date 12/03/2009
Youth Voices in Community Action and Governance

Outcome #2

1. Outcome Measures

Communities, organizations, coalitions, and programs are strengthened by the involvement of youth in decision-making.

2. Associated Institution Types

• 1862 Extension

3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Action Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Quantitative Target</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

When adults and young people cooperate on civic work, youth develop skills to last a lifetime. Adults and youth alike appreciate the benefits of young people having their say. Even so, adults may lack confidence and skills to advocate for their youth partners. And youth may need preparation to discuss complex topics.

What has been done

The UW-Extension statewide Youth Voices in Community Action and Governance Team has trained and supported youth and adults in overcoming barriers to effective partnership, achieving the youth voice and representation goal of advising and partnering with government officials and other public decision-makers. New and expanded youth-adult partnerships resulted in the following youth in governance, community improvement, civic development and positive youth development impacts.

Lincoln County: Effective youth-adult partnerships on the After the Bell Steering Committee resulted in a strong after-school program for middle school students. Through selection and participation of the Lincoln County 4-H Leaders' Association Board of Directors in the youth-adult partnerships case study, adults and youth serving on the board or past boards felt honored and proud of their accomplishments described in the interviews and study report. Response and Results continued...

Results

Other impacts include:

* After the Bell Steering Committee -- better information, decisions, programs and policies (youth have initiated program ideas and ways to handle behavior issues among their peers).
* Lincoln County 4-H Leaders' Association Board of Directors -- better information and decisions (programs are staying current with needs of young people today, better programs and policies)

Waupaca County -- Youth on Boards contribute to decisions in many sectors: executive (appointed to 7 city council committees), county cross sectional coalitions (Tobacco-Free, nutrition and activity coalitions), school (community service committee), 4-H (leaders board), non-profit (trails, triathlon, park foundation, community foundation).

Impacts include:

* City council committees each have a place for youth voices on their agenda. Youth committee members expanded space, equipment and programs at the public library and recreation center for youth.
* Waupaca County 4-H Leaders' Board changed their by-laws to include all youth in grades 7 and above as voting members of the larger Leaders' Association, which could total about 150 members. One youth member prepared a proposal for the Budget Committee on youth eligible for a National Trip.

Superior Days: Youth and adult delegates from six counties take on active roles in developing state policies through this grassroots participatory democracy enterprise. In 2007, 47 youth delegates worked alongside adults researching unmet Northern Wisconsin needs, and 4-H members presented two of these critical issues to legislators in Madison.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KA Code</th>
<th>Knowledge Area</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>806</td>
<td>Youth Development</td>
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</table>
Youth Voices in Community Action and Governance

Outcome #3

1. **Outcome Measures**
   Skilled and experienced youth and adults are available for community decision-making and leadership roles.

2. **Associated Institution Types**
   • 1862 Extension

3a. **Outcome Type:**
   Change in Action Outcome Measure

3b. **Quantitative Outcome**

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<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>2007</td>
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</table>

3c. **Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement**

**Issue (Who cares and Why)**

Studies show powerful benefits to both youth and their communities when young people take on meaningful civic roles such as serving in Teen Court. In counties where teenage jurors hear first-time misdemeanor cases of their peers and determine the proper educational sanctions, those ‘sentenced’ perform community service valued at an average of $4,500 per county, and are less likely to return to court for later offenses.

**What has been done**

UW-Extension county Youth Development educators, 4-H program advisors, trained youth and adult volunteers and community partners such as county and tribal health, police and sheriff departments are nurturing 19 Teen Courts where first-time offenders can appear before a trained jury of their peers. Where traditional juvenile courts might simply impose a small fine, Teen Courts are empowered to create and ‘sentence’ offenders with learning sanctions such as performing community service, attending classes relevant to their offenses, and writing apology letters to those they have wronged.

**Results**

Youth jurors find this such a positive experience that some assign offenders to community service as teen court jurors. Compared with first-time offenders simply charged a small fine in juvenile court, far fewer of those held accountable by their peers will reappear for later offenses. While 1 of every 3 youth offenders who appear in traditional juvenile court becomes a repeat offender (33%), of those referred to Wisconsin Teen Courts, only 1 in 17 appears in court again for later offenses (6%).

Lincoln County: Teen Court herd 24 misdemeanor cases of first-time offenders during monthly sessions in 2007. Youth and adults on the steering committee have learned valuable skills working together toward common goals. Youth have co-chaired the Teen Court steering committee, taking leadership roles. Other youth participants meet with the adults, and together they make key decisions directing the Teen Court Program.

Vilas County: Teen Court involves youth from all high schools in the county. 4 to 6 trained youth serve on the jury panel each month and dozens take part in monthly trainings. In 2007, teen jurors heard 33 cases referred from the Court System. Offenses included Disorderly Conduct, Underage Drinking or alcohol possession, Tobacco smoking, Noise Violation, and Trespass. Youth offenders age 13 to 18 completed 141 hours of community service and 17 learning sanctions, with 235 hours pending.

National Association of Youth Courts: Wisconsin is one of 20 states with a recognized peer courts networking group. Wisconsin Teen Court Association president -- Vilas County 4-H youth development educator Nancy Anne Livingston -- and three colleagues are founding members of the new National Association of Youth Courts that held its first conference in December 2007. Livingston also serves as national secretary.

4. **Associated Knowledge Areas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KA Code</th>
<th>Knowledge Area</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Youth Development</td>
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Youth Voices in Community Action and Governance

Outcome #4

1. Outcome Measures
   Community organizations, coalitions, and government bodies improve practices and policies that support youth engagement.

2. Associated Institution Types
   - 1862 Extension

3a. Outcome Type:
   Change in Action Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Quantitative Target</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

Situation and Response: A 2005 study of youth in governance programs renewed focus on providing support for program quality improvement and sustainability rather than on early implementation of youth in governance projects. Widespread support is needed for youth involvement, particularly among community coalitions. Through county case studies and multi-state research, evaluation of youth in governance efforts aim to improve understanding, implementation and sustainability of effective youth-adult partnerships.

What has been done

Results

Youth-adult partnership case studies by youth development campus and county faculty include Lincoln County 4-H Board of Directors, youth on City of Waupaca committees, and Together for Jackson County Kids, a community coalition.

Lincoln County 4-H Board of Directors: Lincoln County 4-H members and volunteers used the results of their case study to create a strategy for expanding youth involvement in the Fair Board. The report’s key findings included:

- Youth and adult participants express a high level of understanding of youth-adult partnership and satisfaction with the practice.
- Adult volunteers are ready to advocate for youth-adult partnership within the organization and the broader community.
- Stakeholders want to cultivate support for youth-adult partnership among other adult volunteers and Fair Board members.

Youth on City of Waupaca committees: The Waupaca report included the following key research findings, which highlight impact of the local youth in governance program:

- City of Waupaca is a Wisconsin leader in building sustainable involvement of youth in government decision-making.
- Youth and adults serving together on committees support continuing and strengthening the participation of youth.
- Youth input has contributed to program improvements, especially on the library and parks and recreation committees.
- Youth and adults have built stronger relationships from a basis of equal treatment. These findings inspire youth to new venues for involvement in decision-making.

Together for Jackson County Kids: Key community coalition outcomes include:

- Youth-adult partnership is perceived by both youth and adults as essential to the mission, vision and day-to-day work of the coalition.
- Youth-adult partnership is most effective in small, project-driven activities.
- Youth and adult coalition members are concerned about recruitment, retention and representation of youth with diverse perspectives.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KA Code</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>806</td>
<td>Youth Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
V(H). Planned Program (External Factors)

External factors which affected outcomes
- Public Policy changes
- Government Regulations

Brief Explanation

V(I). Planned Program (Evaluation Studies and Data Collection)

1. Evaluation Studies Planned
   - After Only (post program)
   - Before-After (before and after program)

Evaluation Results
Youth Voices in Community Action and Governance

Explosions of Ideas and Actions Conference October 19-21, 2007

The 2007 Youth as partners in Civic Leadership (YPCL) conference had 126 participants including 86 youth and 38 adults from across WI representing 15 teams at conference. Twenty-eight people representing many different organizations got involved in conference planning teleconferences. Throughout the year, YPCL members met to plan and coordinate the conference on 12 teleconferences and two face-to-face meetings.

Conference Goals Were Met.

1. Build skills through arts & media projects, workshops, networking and roundtables

   • 77% of conference participants reported that the conference experience improved their ability to actively contribute to their community.

   • 81% built skills and gained ideas for using arts, media and technology.

   • In December, Florence County’s TORPEDO team completed part of their plan--they involved community members of all ages and artists Tim and Connie Friesen to create a visual representation of their community.

2. See models of community actions led by youth and adults

   • 61% said they had made contacts they will continue to network with.

   • 72% exchanged ideas and formed friendships with people from diverse backgrounds.

3. Build the movement for youth voice in Wisconsin

   • 72% said they were more likely to work to involve youth in local government and issues and 62% in state government and issues.

   • 82% are better prepared to work as a partner with youth and adults in their communities.

   • The results of the interactive survey and forum were the focus of a state-wide planning meeting of Wisconsin Youth Voice—and a grant proposal was submitted to advance the plan.

YPCL was also able to distribute mini-grants to conference teams to take what they learned at the conference and use it in their own communities. The mini-grant proposals directly show how participating teams are using the skills gained at the conference to make change in their own communities.

Argyle School District: Art Team

Video documenting local veterans stories to be dedicated on Memorial Day 2008 and given to local public libraries

B.E.A.M. (Business and Economics Academy of Milwaukee)

Creating a public mural to inspire children to believe they can achieve their goals

Student Library Advisory Group—Waupaca Area Public Library

Books Behind Bars program to start a formal library to help meet the informational and literary needs of the inmates
Waushara Prevention Council—Students Taking on Prevention (S.T.O.P.)

Utilize guerilla marketing techniques in raise awareness of underage drinking and tobacco use video, murals, human signs, palm cards, etc.

Florence County TORPEDOs

Video promotion of town/school, explore possibilities of starting a teen court, community mural depicting rich rural heritage

**Key Items of Evaluation**