

Welcome and Plenary Session



Mark Gesner, M.Ed., is the Community Development and Dialogues Director for the University of Wisconsin – Parkside’s Center for Community Partnerships. Mark oversees university outreach efforts in the areas of diversity programs, workforce development, program evaluation and research, and facilitation services. His research efforts have focused on educational attainment, mentoring, intercultural competency, and work readiness skills. Mark chairs the Mentor Kenosha & Racine Advisory Board and teaches Community Based

Learning 101. He was the lead author of UW-Parkside’s recently awarded U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention grant to support mentoring in local middle schools. Mark previously served as the national Director of Education and Development for Hostelling International – USA. Mark received his Bachelors degree from the State University of New York at Albany and his Masters degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



Michelle Dolnik is the current AmeriCorps*VISTA serving with Mentor Kenosha & Racine at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. A recent graduate of UW-Parkside, she majored in geography and was the recipient of one of seven Outstanding Graduate Awards. Over the past few years she has actively volunteered in the community at the Racine Zoo, Kenosha Humane Society, and Beth Hillel Temple as the youth advisor. She has also worked as a peer tutor on campus. In her spare time, she enjoys going to Chicago, visiting art museums,

and reading.

Activities for Identifying, Teaching, and Growing Resiliency: You’ve Got the Power!



Nan Henderson, M.S.W., is an internationally recognized author, trainer, and consultant on fostering human resiliency in youth, adults, families, and organizations. Her publications on this subject are used in more than 25 countries and have been translated into Spanish and Russian. She is co-founder and President of Resiliency In Action, Inc., a training and publishing company in Southern California.

Ms. Henderson has trained and consulted in 44 U.S. States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Organizations she has worked for include Big Brothers/Big Sisters; Upward Bound; the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission; the New Zealand Ministry of Education; Job Corps; and State Departments of Education in California, Vermont, Colorado, Maine, Texas, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire. She has also been a trainer for hundreds of school districts, and social service and community agencies.

The Pennsylvania Secretary of Education, Gerald Zavorchak is now recommending that Ms. Henderson’s resiliency model be used in every school in the state. New York City Schools are also adopting Ms. Henderson’s resiliency model and she is involved in a major resiliency initiative there.

In 2004, she provided training for New Zealand’s National Federation of Children’s Health Camps as well as for National Child and Youth Welfare Officials, which was introduced by the country’s Minister of Child Welfare.

Her experience includes several years as a youth substance abuse and other risk behavior prevention and early intervention specialist. Her work links the resiliency framework with the best in prevention and intervention with youth risk behaviors.

Ms. Henderson has served on the faculty of five colleges/universities (with an emphasis on substance abuse issues in her higher education teaching); worked as a clinical therapist with youth, adults,

and families in agencies and schools; and directed citywide, statewide, and school districtwide youth risk behavior prevention and resiliency implementation programs.

She is the author/editor of five books, including *Resiliency In Schools: Making It Happen for Students and Educators*, published by Corwin Press—one of its all-time best-selling books. Her most recent book is *Resiliency In Action: Practical Ideas for Overcoming Risks and Building Strengths in Youth, Families, and Communities* (2007), *Mentoring for Resiliency: Setting Up Programs to Move Youth from “Stressed to Success”*; and *Schoolwide Approaches for Fostering Resiliency*, all published by Resiliency In Action.

Her articles have appeared in several national publications, including *Education Digest*; *Hope Magazine*; *Principal Magazine*; and *Prevention Researcher*. She was the featured resiliency expert on National Public Radio’s July 16, 2002 “Talk of the Nation” program on resiliency.

How to Grow Your Mentoring Program without Becoming Overwhelmed!

Joan Jacobs, Principal Consultant at Chrysalis Solutions, LLC, has over thirty years experience in organizational, resource, Board, and project/program development within the nonprofit sector. Among other activities, she has facilitated numerous annual and strategic planning processes, designed new programs and completed program/project evaluations, and worked with organizations to develop income plans and strategies for garnering the funds needed to accomplish those plans. As a nonprofit management consultant, she has worked with a wide range of local and regional organizations, primarily in the areas of early childhood, employment and training, economic and community development, low-income housing, youth programming, alcohol and drug addiction programming, and homelessness. The majority of her clients have been located in and have focused their service provision in central city neighborhoods – both in Flint, MI and in Milwaukee, WI.

Panel Discussion: Transitioning Youth from Gangs to Growth

Maurice Horton, president and CEO of Why Gangs LLC, has been the Director of the Gang/Crime Diversion Taskforce for the past 13 years, the program serves at-risk and gang affiliated youth. In addition to his passion for this program Maurice has also focused his attention on establishing an intense gang awareness consultation firm called Why Gangs LLC. Maurice established this firm to help educate, empower and strengthen educational institutions as well as offering consultation services to community agencies. Due to his knowledge of gangs and intense dedication to these programs, he has earned certificates and awards from the following:

- University of Wisconsin Criminal Justice Institute Certificate
- US Department of Transportation Award of Merit
- The Public Service Award from the Circle of Recovery
- Two Racine Police Department Citizen Public Service Awards
- The Wisconsin Association of Runaway Services Award
- Certificate of Appreciation from the Ethan Allen School for Boys
- The National Emergency Training Center Certificate of Achievement in Maryland
- Neighborhood Watch Appreciation Award
- The Midwest Gang Investigators of Fort Wayne, Indiana Certificate
- Two Arkansas Travel’s Award Recognition from the Arkansas Coalition of Juvenile Justice

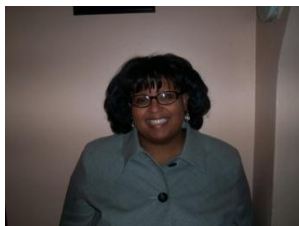
- The Ren Svanoe Youth Leadership Award from the state of Wisconsin, one of the highest awards in the state to be received by any single individual
- The Sustainable Racine Award in December 2004
- Racine Administrator Association Friend of Education Award
- Certificate of Appreciation from the International Latino Gang Investigators Association

In addition, to these accomplishments Mr. Horton also has presented at the following conferences:

Coalition for Juvenile Justice Ethnic & Culture Diversity Training Conference Atlanta, GA 2002

- Great Lakes International Gang Investigators Coalition Madison, WI 2003
- **Know Gangs.com** Midwest Gang National Conference Milwaukee, WI 2004
- Wisconsin Association of Runaway Services Annual Conference Door County, WI 2005
- Child Welfare League of America National Conference Miami, FL 2005
- Promising Practices for School-Based Gang Prevention & Intervention 2nd Annual Conference Cincinnati, OH 2005
- Attorney's General Law Enforcement Gun Gangs and Violence Conference Appleton, WI 2005-06
- 11th Annual DMC Conference New Orleans, LA 2006
- Arkansas Coalition of Juvenile Justice Conference Little Rock, Ark. 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009
- United States Attorney Office Anti Gang Summit Waukesha, WI 2006
- Racine Unified School District Safety and Security Seminar Racine, WI 2006
- Racine Unified School District Institute Day Racine, WI 2007, and 2008
- The Circle of Outreach: Street Outreach Conference Farmington, MN 2007
- International Latino Gang Investigators Association Conference Madison, WI 2007
- Racine Correctional Facility Black History Summit Racine WI, 2008

Mr. Horton has been recognized as a great motivational speaker and educator.



Donna Rhodes has been a juvenile justice social worker in Kenosha for over 20 years specializing in working with youth gangs. She is currently employed by Kenosha County Division of Youth and Family Services as the Gang Intervention Supervisor. Her role is to work with community stakeholders to develop programs/initiatives designed to reduce youth gang involvement. Ms. Rhodes also works to education parents, teachers and other community members on the issue of youth gangs.

With her previous employer, Professional Services Group, Ms. Rhodes supervised programs designed to successfully intervene in the lives of delinquent youth including Monitored Home Detention, Comprehensive Day Treatment Services, Electronic Monitoring, Intensive Aftercare Program, and Truancy Reduction Specialist Program.

Ms. Rhodes has a Bachelor Degree in Sociology from University of Wisconsin-Parkside and is a certified social worker with the State of Wisconsin.



Sam Saucedo Co-Director Youth Empowerment Department

Twenty years of experience working with At- risk youth and Certified Gang Specialist.

Awards

2003 Employee of The Year Award-Boys & Girls \ C.Y.C. Sports
Certificate Of Appreciation- Curtis Strange Elementary

Certificate Award of Dedication & Services – Kenosha County Gang Task Force

Certificate Award -AmeriCorps National Services

Certificate OF Environment Achievement “Graffiti Swat Team”-National Environmental Council

Graffiti Swat Team- article in Reader Digest

Graffiti Swat Team- news update on Channel 6 & 12

Late Night Basketball League- news update on Channel 6 & 12

Community Service/Restitution Program

Overall implementation of community service component

Direct Supervision : Responsible for case management

Gang Prevention and Intervention

Assist with training and in-service for staff in the community

Leadership sessions

At-Risk Mentoring

Diversion Activities (mentoring, workshops, staff and other incentive activities)

Education

Gang Prevention & Intervention Specialist Certification 1989-Present

National Gang Crime Research Center II.

Youth Development Certification December 2000

UW Parkside

Guiding Your Mentee Down a Healthy Career Path

Maria Nabors joined Racine County in 1990 in various positions. She has received her Bachelors of Science Degree in Human Services, a certificate in Human Resources and is a Certified Workforce Development Professional. Maria currently works with the Racine community and schools to facilitate an array of Career Development, Employment Search, and Personal Growth workshops. Maria’s position as a Youth Career Counselor affords her the opportunity to follow her passion to work with youth. She sees her current position as a wonderful opportunity to encourage young people to embrace their uniqueness and see themselves as valuable parts of the community.



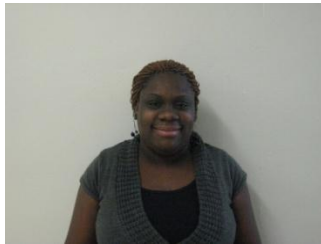
Linda Osborne graduated from Jackson State University in 1975 with a BA in Early Childhood Education with a minor in Reading. She has been a foster parent for twenty years. Linda has raised foster children from ages one to seventeen. Although Linda is not a biological mother, she helped raise her siblings and their children. Linda states that this gave her insight to understanding young people today.

Linda taught for 1 ½ years for grades K-6 upon graduation from

college. She started working at the Christian Youth Council in 1977. She worked in various capacities for the CYC who merged with the Boys & Girls Club in 2001. She worked in nursing homes assisting in arts & crafts for over 5 years. She helped start the Graffiti Swat Team as well.

For over 15 years Linda has been working in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) working with youth ages 14-21. After an initial assessment the youth are trained and registered for employment. They are then helped to find employment with local businesses. All youth are monitored for one year after they are finished with the program.

Linda says “The most fulfilling thing is when the youth find unsubsidized employment through this program.”



Tanya Woods started working at the CYC in 1998 when she was 15 years old. She began working in the concession stand part-time. She then moved to the sports department to be an administrative assistant. At this time Tanya was also attending college. In her freshman year of college Tanya gave birth to a son. She continued working as an administrative assistant with the YEP and WIA departments. In 2007 Tanya graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice. Later that year, she was hired full-time to be the co-director of the WIA Youth Employment Department. At this time she is continuing her education to receive her Masters Degree in Criminal Justice.

Tanya has been a mentor for the Circle of Hope Mentoring Program since 2004. She has also been a mentor for Community Impact Programs since 2007. Tanya started a girls group; “Reflection of U” in 2008, mentoring to girls ages 16-24, with a membership of 10 girls at this time.

“Mentoring is fulfilling to me in many ways, it provides a joy like no other. To know that I am constantly making a difference in someone’s life is truly a blessing for me.” Tanya Woods

Becoming a Certified Program: An Overview of Mentor Kenosha & Racine’s Certification Process

Michelle Dolnik (see above for biography)



Kathy Cole has been the Director of Operations at the Boys and Girls Club of Kenosha since March, 2008. She is responsible for the following programs: Youth Employment, Youth Empowerment, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and the Madrigano Center, a drop in facility for youth from 6 to 18 years of age. Kathy was a professional Girl Scout for 8 years, responsible for fundraising, marketing, and communication. She created an alumni group and organized camping, sailing, singing and other fun events for the group. Once they were reintroduced to Girl Scouting they became donors and volunteers.

Her passion is providing children with opportunities and tools so they can become happy, educated, productive citizens. She has been a Kindergarten teacher in Michigan and Wisconsin.

She created children's educational workbooks, games, activity books, and software for 20 years for major publishing companies.

Kathy earned a Bachelor of Science degree in History/Social Science from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. Her academic emphasis was in education, specifically teaching reading.

Kathy lives in the Chiwaukee Prairie, in Pleasant Prairie, WI, within walking distance to Lake Michigan. She loves to run and walk her dog along the beach.

Juvenile Justice Panel: Understanding the Consequences

Judge John Jude was elected to the Racine County Circuit Court in 2004. He currently serves in Juvenile Court. He is a life-long Racine County resident, married, 5 children, 7 grandchildren. He graduated from Marquette University Law School in 1977 and maintained a private law practice as a trial attorney in Racine until his election to the bench. Before entering law school, he was a Racine County juvenile probation officer and directed various "community corrections" programs involving juvenile, adult and traffic courts.

Kerry Milkie is the Manager of the Youth and Family Division for the Racine County Human Services Department. She has been employed with Racine County Human Services for 22 years. She was a supervisor for the Child Protective Service Units for 11 years and the Youth and Delinquency unit for 4 years. During her years at the Department Kerry has participated in a number of initiatives in Racine County, including assisting in the development of the Multidisciplinary Protocol, which identifies best practice strategies for law enforcement and child protective services to investigate child abuse and neglect. She participated in the development and creation of the Racine County Child Advocacy Center and currently sits on the Advisory Board. Recently, Kerry has participated in the Racine County protocol for identifying and intervening with drug endangered children and their families. Additionally, she has worked with other County staff to expand Racine County's *Alternatives to Corrections through Education Program* (ACE), to allow other county placements.

Building a Pipeline: Connecting Mentor Programs and School Districts

Kathy Dunkerson Kathy is the Director of Extended Day Programs, Racine Unified School District. She has a Masters degree in Early Childhood Education from Concordia University, Wisconsin. Kathy is a certified trainer for the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards, and Ruby Payne Bridges Out of Poverty. She is also a trained coach with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for Wisconsin After-School Continuous Improvement Process to help develop high quality after-school programs throughout the state. As a Racine resident she has built strong partnerships with youth serving agencies within the community to benefit school age children.

As the Director of Extended Day Programs for RUSD she manages federal, and state grants, and district funds to operate 21 centers for the school district. She works extensively with both internal and external agencies with a vision for the future for out of school programs. She advocates on behalf of extended day programming to move it from an arbitrary program to one clearly aligned and focused on academic achievement, family and community partnerships.

Mike Frontier, Ph.D. served as a principal in elementary, middle, and high school in the Racine schools for 31 years. He founded the San Juan Diego Middle School in Racine in 2002. He currently works with the Graduate Support Program at John XXIII Educational Center. He is chair of the Racine County Youth Coalition and a member of the Racine Park and Recreation Board.

Joe Kucak MSW,LCSW, is the Student Services Administrator for the Kenosha Unified School District. He manages 100+ School Social Workers, School Counselors, and School Psychologists. In addition to public education, Mr. Kucak's career spans 30 years in County Human Services, Child Welfare, County and State Corrections, and Clinical Social Work as well.