



# Youth-Led

## Youth-Led Sessions

Tuesday 2:30–3:15 pm  
3:30–4:15 pm

With the exception of **Listen to Homeless Youth SpeakOUT (Part 1 and 2)** and **Students Directing Real School Change (Part 1 and Part 2)**, each 2:30 p.m. presentation will be repeated in the 3:30 p.m. sessions.

### **Listen to Homeless Youth SpeakOUT (Part 1 and Part 2)** (Michelangelo)

Ozone House

Homelessness impacts a young person's success in school in numerous ways (such as attendance, falling behind on assignments, and bullying). Teachers and other school staff can provide a crucial role in connecting youth to resources and providing other needed support. Join members of SpeakOUT for an interactive workshop on how educators can better identify, approach, and support homeless students. Composed of young adults who have directly experienced homelessness and/or other crises. SpeakOUT's overall goal is to raise awareness about the needs of and advocate for homeless youth. Through this workshop and other efforts, SpeakOUT aims to shed light on the barriers faced by homeless youth as well as offer strategies to increase support.

### **Partnership for Persistence** (Monet)

Fostering Success Michigan and  
Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative

Young adults with experience in foster care share examples of successful partnership between students and professionals to support them as they navigate their way through the education pipeline. This includes understanding the education challenges unique to the experience of foster care and the role that educators and community partners can play to keep students on track and in class.

### **Empowering Students With Technology** (Davinci)

Swartz Creek Academy

Students will explain the benefits of utilizing digital portfolios to empower their position within the global market. This includes demonstrating the ways in which a digital portfolio professionally showcases their interests, skills, and talents; advances the development of 21st century skills (specifically effective oral/written communication and digital literacy); and fosters sharing and collaboration. Examples of digital portfolios and electronic resumes/curriculum vitae will be shared.

### **At Our Crossroads** (Greco)

Crossroads High School

This workshop provides participants with a student panel discussion where Kentwood Public Schools' Crossroads High School students share their personal experiences and perspective about the obstacles that may lead to students dropping out of school. Students will present strategies that help to engage, motivate, empower, and allow students to stay in school. Students will highlight relational capacity and showcase service-learning and student leadership.

### **Students Directing Real School Change (Part 1 and Part 2)** (Mackinac East)

Neutral Zone

This session will highlight two successful student advisories in two very different communities. In rural Marion Michigan, Marion's Peer Advisory Council of Teens has been operating for four years, leading several projects throughout the district around school climate and improvement. In Detroit, Henry Ford High School's Student Advisory, formed in the 2015-16 school year, has led initiatives on increasing positive behavior and attitude across the student body, including work supporting the positive behavioral intervention supports program.

### **Supporting Opportunities** (Mackinac West)

Oakland Opportunity Academy

This workshop provides participants with a student panel discussion in which Oakland Opportunity Academy students share their personal experiences and perspectives about the obstacles that may lead to students dropping out of school. Students will discuss how different learning environments serve to support them, or contribute to their disengagement, and will make suggestions about how traditional and alternative middle and high school settings can better serve challenged learners.



# Sessions

## **Youth Leading Action** (Marquette A)

Student Advocacy Center of Michigan's (SAC's) Youth Action Michigan (YAM) is a space for student organizers, supported by caring adult allies, to make change within their own schools, and at the policy level. Join YAM members and allies from Detroit, Jackson, and Ypsilanti, MI as they lead participants through interactive dialogues and activities that address the real impact of zero tolerance policy on our nation's students. The session will culminate with an opportunity for participants to critically examine their role as potential allies to our communities' most marginalized students, and to identify steps they can take in the immediate future to support the youth in their lives.

## **Youth Action Michigan**

## **Partnership for Second Chances** (Marquette B)

Young people participating in Lansing Community College's (LCC) High School Diploma Completion Initiative (HSDCI) will share their experiences that highlight the power of community college and business partnership for dropout recovery. HSDCI classes are LCC courses where students earn college credit concurrently while completing high school diploma requirements. While HSDCI courses are mainstream college courses that are part of curricula at LCC, instructional methods at HSDCI are customized to maximize the learning opportunity for high school students. HSDCI graduates have options to seek employment, further education, or a combination of both as they complete their college studies. A team of partners, including LCC, Ingham Intermediate School District (IISD) and other business and industry leaders are committed to developing college-level curriculum for diploma completion as well as advanced training for work in high-demand technical careers.

## **Lansing Community College High School**

## **Diploma Completion Initiative**

## **Advice From the Experts** (LaSalle A)

Young people involved with the Children's Center mental health, foster care, and after-school services will be sharing their experiences and recommendations for how systems can and must work together to better serve students and families with mental health challenges. They will share the importance of utilizing community partners to build allies to push reform, change, and investment.

## **The Children's Center**

## **Getting to the Grassroots** (LaSalle B)

Young people involved with Developing KIDS in Detroit will share their recommendations for change with conference participants, including ways to engage youth, parents, and other community resources in supporting high school graduation. Developing KIDS works with young people, families, churches, and other community partners to strengthen Detroit neighborhoods by guiding youth in their mental, physical, and educational growth; helping to strengthen and empower young adults; and providing opportunities for all to become strong contributors to their community.

## **Developing KIDS**

## **Young People Creating Change Across a Metropolitan Region** (Cadillac A)

The Metropolitan Youth Policy Fellows (MYPF) is a group of diverse youth representing communities and schools across the Metropolitan Detroit Region. Since 2012 the MYPF team has been working on a number of efforts to assess youth ideas, conduct participatory assessments, encourage youth engagement, and promote youth-led change projects in local schools and communities. This workshop will showcase the MYPF's efforts, including their work to develop a large-scale youth participatory social justice assessment of the region. They will also share tips for promoting youth-led social change and tips for adults and community leaders interested in strengthening youth engagement in their organizations and communities.

## **Metropolitan Youth Policy Fellows**

## **Building Successful Pathways** (Cadillac B)

Students will share how their experience with middle college differs from traditional high schools, and how they have been helping to lead their own educational experience. Washtenaw Technical Middle College was one of the first middle colleges in Michigan, and continues to build and change based on the experiences of its students.

## **Washtenaw Technical Middle College**