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Students from Alternative, Adult Ed Programs Provide the Questions in Youth-Led Candidate Forum at Boyne Mountain Oct. 18

Michigan's Children, MACAE Help Raise Youth Voice

BOYNE FALLS, Mich. -- Michigan's Children and the Michigan Association of Community and Adult Education (MACAE) are hosting a youth-led candidate forum, Tuesday, October 18, 2016 from 10:30am-noon, at the Boyne Mountain Resort. The forum is being held in conjunction with MACAE's annual fall conference.

All candidates running for Michigan Congressional districts 1 and 4; and Michigan House districts 101, 103, 104, 105, and 107 have been invited.

This event will provide candidates with an opportunity to respond to questions from young people currently or formerly served by alternative and adult education programs. Some have been previously engaged with the juvenile justice and foster care systems, and all have faced significant challenges to their educational success.

The program will follow a standard format with all candidates given equal time to address the audience and respond to questions. While the event is being led by active youths from the community, the audience will consist of people of all voting ages.

Michigan's Children CEO & President Matt Gillard said the forum provides youth who have faced serious struggles with an opportunity to use their voice and pose questions to candidates seeking to represent them.

"Kids deserve to be heard by their decision-makers and those setting policies that impact them in Lansing and Washington, D.C.," Gillard said. "Before we send any more leaders to Lansing and other key offices, the candidates need to hear what's on their minds."

This forum follows another candidate event organized by Michigan's Children and co-sponsored by The Children's Center in the Cass Corridor of Detroit, and another forum happening in Lansing on the same day at Ingham Academy, a school and day-treatment facility for court-ordered youth in Lansing.

Michigan's Children is a Lansing-based, nonprofit, public policy organization working to improve policies that impact children, youth and families, especially those facing the most challenges.

To participate in the event via Twitter, use the hashtag, [#youthled2K16](#)