

Minnesota's Summit 2007



Governor Pawlenty speaking at the Minnesota Summit

Thank you to all participants, presenters, sponsors and supporters of Minnesota's Summit! Over 450 youth and adults registered for the event on December 5, 2007. Minnesota's Summit recognized and celebrated the Minnesota Alliance With Youth's ten year anniversary and inspired renewed commitment among participants to continue to provide the resources young people need to graduate school and grow up successful. The event was hosted by Minnesota Alliance With Youth and Minnesota Department of Education, and sponsored by State Farm.

Highlights of Minnesota's Summit:

- Emcees Joanne Benson—former Lt. Governor and former co-chair of the Minnesota Alliance With Youth—and Jesus Jaurez III—Minnesota Youth Advisory Council member—energized and led participants through the day's activities.
- Opening address by Minnesota Department of Education Commissioner Alice Seagren. Commissioner Seagren set the tone of the Summit sharing the need for the Alliance's work to keep students on a path towards graduation.
- Dr. Peter Benson, President of Search Institute, gave the keynote speech encouraging continued collaboration among schools and communities to invest in the growth and development of Minnesota's youth.
- Informative breakout sessions were provided by U of M Center for Youth Development and You Thrive, Youth Community Connections, Search Institute and local initiatives, Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, and Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota.
- Former youth co-chair of the Minnesota Alliance With Youth, Mike Minks, moderated a youth panel discussion on increasing student graduation rates in the state. The youth panelists were Adam Fitzgerald, Rachelle Jenson, Frederick Hubbula, Aamina Muhammad, and Stephanie Calderon.

- Red Wagon Awards were presented by the honorary chair of the Minnesota Alliance With Youth and Lt. Governor Carol Molnau, and the Governor of the State of Minnesota Tim Pawlenty. Red Wagon Awards were awarded to individuals and groups recognized for their academic achievement, exceptional civic engagement and outstanding leadership. Congratulations to Tiffany Hopkins, Jaci Sears, SirLayRon Brown, Anais Sosa, Garden City Elementary Peace Group, Northfield Skateboard Coalition, and Great River School's Peace Group.
- Wrapping up the event was Sarah Dixon, Executive Director of the Minnesota Alliance With Youth, and Cammy Lehr of the Minnesota Department of Education. Together Sarah and Cammy thanked everyone who made the Summit possible, and reiterated the need to continue the work that is occurring in the community in support of Minnesota's youth.
- Following the Summit was a reception honoring the Red Wagon Award winners and the Minnesota Alliance With Youth for the success and hard work that has been accomplished this past year.
- Special thanks to the Summit Planning Committee, the Summit Volunteer Committee, Youth Entertainers from the High School of Recording Arts Gospel Choir, the Red Wagon Awards Committee, Minnesota Youth Advisory Council, Minnesota Alliance With Youth staff, Minnoesta Alliance With youth Leadership Team, Minnesota Department of Education Dropout Prevention Initiative Operations Team, and the Districts Participating in Dropout Prevention Initiatives. Acknowledgements and appreciation are extended to these groups who contributed time, effort, and other resources to make Minnesota's Summit possible.

Happy 10-Year Anniversary Minnesota Alliance With Youth!