

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA Youth Work Institute

About the Youth Work Institute

The Youth Work Institute creates and delivers exceptional learning experiences to build skilled youth development professionals and strong youth programs. Our interactive, state-of-the-art, research-based educational opportunities are designed to strengthen youth program capacity as well as youth worker skills and knowledge.

As a capacity-building resource, the Youth Work Institute offers an array of services to the youth serving community including organizational consultation, technical assistance and customized training as well as public forums, ongoing classes, seminars and major symposia featuring nationally and internationally known researchers, practitioners and policy experts.

While the institute attracts and serves a range of adults who work with and on behalf of youth, its educational offerings are especially relevant



For more information...

(612) 624-1999

**[www.extension.umn.edu/
YouthWorkInstitute](http://www.extension.umn.edu/YouthWorkInstitute)**

to youth workers dealing with young people (11-18 years old) in community settings during the non-school hours.

The institute is committed to linking the latest research to everyday youth work in practical ways that highlight the contributions of scholarly study while honoring the wisdom and experience of community practitioners.



Skilled youth professionals
Stronger youth programs
Better youth outcomes



Youth Work Institute
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Get to know the Youth Work Institute!

The **University of Minnesota Youth Work Institute** is the “go to” place for exciting learning experiences, the latest research on positive youth development and connections to people in the youth development field.

Our goal is to improve outcomes for youth by connecting research with daily youth development practice. Our commitment is to join with others striving to help young people learn, lead and contribute.

The Youth Work Institute faculty and staff have direct youth work experience as well as advanced degrees in youth development, education, recreation, social work and related fields. They’ve done it. They’ve studied it. Now, they can help you put it to use.

**Call us today. We're ready to help.
(612) 624-1999**



Three strategies to strengthen youth development

Enhancing the knowledge and practical skills of youth workers

- The institute offers short courses and workshops every fall and spring focused on current research and best practices in the field. Visit www.extension.umn.edu/youthworkinstitute.
- Institute trainings offer something for everyone — experienced program managers, part-time staff and volunteers. Youth Work Matters is an example of our flexible in-depth courses on the fundamentals of youth work. Participants may choose among three options: an 18-24 hour option, two practical three-hour workshops or a 1-3 hour online learning component.
- Institute staff work with organizations to create customized training and education. Topics include program quality, evaluation, practice dilemmas, cultural responsiveness, youth engagement and intentional planning.

Building youth program quality and capacity

- Quality Matters and Evaluation Matters courses combine important topics with peer networking and helpful consultations. These experiences include small and large group discussions, audio-visual materials, interactive exercises, select readings and on-line learning options.
- Institute activities include participation in national research studies of program quality improvement in after-school and community programs.
- Youth program staff and volunteers may participate in public forums, workshops, symposiums, classes and customized training, and consultations.

Contributing to the youth development profession

- The institute sponsors regional forums statewide as well as the Youth Work Coalition forums listed in our catalog.
- Institute sessions with national and international youth development practitioners, policy makers and researchers address a wide range of topics and always emphasize the relationship between research and practice.
- The institute is a partner in sponsoring the Howland Symposiums at the Extension Center for Youth Development.

What our colleagues say...

- *Finally, a workshop that goes deeper than the basics!! Very practical. I can't wait to try this out!*
- *I learned a lot that I can take back to my job as an African American mentor. Thank you for having this workshop. It was much needed!*
- *I have learned as much here as in a semester-long course!*