

For Immediate Release
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Search Institute Celebrates 50 Years— Hosts Healthy Communities • Healthy Youth Conference November 6-8, 2008

*Common goal of working together to create healthy communities for
children set to draw adults and youth from around the world*

Minneapolis—September, 2008: Search Institute®, a national leader in discovering what kids need to succeed hosts its 12 annual *Healthy Communities • Healthy Youth*® conference November 6-8 on the theme *Igniting Sparks: Connect to Hope*.

International participants will gather in Minneapolis to learn, connect, renew, and be equipped with the knowledge and tools to make a difference in the lives of their peers, colleagues, and all youth. Conference assemblies, learning sessions, hot topics, and pre-conference seminars will provide learning opportunities for every community and education sector.



Keynote Speakers and Events

In addition to Search Institute President Dr. Peter Benson, keynote speakers include Bill Milliken, Founder and Vice Chairman of Communities in Schools, Inc.; Dr. Verna Price, President of J. Cameron & Associates; and Eboo Patel, Executive Director of Interfaith Youth Core. Assembly sessions also feature Ken Medema, composer and poet, who will entertain and challenge the audience to encourage positive change. The 2008 *HC • HY Conference* will also host 13 pre-conference trainings on November 4 and 5, conducted by Search Institute national trainers and asset champions from around the country.

Who Should Attend

Individuals and teams, composed of youth and adults from communities and organizations involved or interested in positive youth development, should participate in the 2008 *HC • HY Conference*. Leaders of businesses, community initiatives, and faith-based communities, along with educators, counselors, health-care professionals, parents, and prevention

specialists—anyone who cares about the well-being of children and adolescents—will benefit from the 2008 *HC • HY Conference*.

Igniting Sparks: Connect to Hope – What It Means

Dr. Peter Benson’s newest work reveals that young people who seem to be thriving can be described as having a “spark in their lives, a passion for building a skill or interest.” This year’s conference, based on the 40 Developmental Assets[®], Search Institute’s framework of building blocks for positive youth development, will focus on how youth and adults can identify their *sparks*, *connect* with their innate gifts, and bring renewed *hope* to their lives. Search Institute’s exciting new research shows that thousands of young people, ages 11 to 17, know what their “spark” is, and they know who helps them ignite it and keep it alive. The *HC • HY Conference* will highlight the power of sparks in asset work with teenagers as well as adults.

What Past Attendees Say about the *HC • HY Conference*

“The conference was so inspiring and uplifting. It was great to see how many people come together and unite over their common hope and belief in the future.”

- 2007 *HC • HY Conference* attendee

“We learned so much about how to better incorporate assets into all aspects of programming. We were inspired by the stories of other asset builders and by the youth who attended this conference!”

- 2007 *HC • HY Conference* attendee

In a survey of the 2007 conference attendees, 95% reported that the *HC • HY Conference* “very effectively renewed their commitment to youth.”

About Search Institute: Search Institute is an independent, nonprofit, nonsectarian organization whose mission is to provide leadership, knowledge, and resources to promote healthy children, youth, and communities. To accomplish this mission, the institute conducts research, communicates new knowledge, and brings together community, state, and national leaders. For more information, visit www.search-institute.org.

Conference Details:

Date: November 6-8, 2008 (Pre-Conference Sessions November 4-5)

Location: Hyatt Hotel, Minneapolis, MN

Detailed information: www.hchy.org

**Registration available online at www.hchy.org. Call 800-888-7828 with questions.
Search Institute 615 1st Ave N.E. Suite 125, Minneapolis, MN 55413.**