Pathways to SUCCESS
Illinois 21st CCLC Spring Conference

Hosted by the Illinois State Board of Education and SEDL
The key to change is creating the space for young people to imagine a better way of life and support them so they can act on that vision. --S. Ginwright.
Building Hip-Hop(e)

- Building Communities of Hope That Engage Youth to go From Surviving to Thriving
Galvanizing adults towards the positive development of youth, and mobilizing youth towards the positive development of communities.
Case Study: Carlos
Great Life Legacy
The root word for education is from the Latin term: “educare”, which means to bring out.

“I seek to only chip away the rough pieces that have trapped the sculpture.” — Michelangelo
“The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth”- Erasmus (Ancient Philosopher)
“Hope is found between acknowledging our concrete realities and actively working towards the dreams of what is still possible.” --Paulo Freire
HipHop Culture

“Get Free or Die Trying” -- 1971

HipHop - The modern day phenomenon of oppressed people finding liberation through creative and spiritual means.
Hiphop Industry

“Get Rich or Die Tryin”--1991

Exercises power over young people, promotes hyper-consumerism, and rugged individualism.
Outcomes:

1 Point Increase
100% Graduation

YMCA-Top Afterschool Assoc.

Academic Journals
Case Study in Los Angeles
Sampling Consciousness
Case Study in Los Angeles
Search Institute Study: Thriving Youth Have:

The RELATIONSHIPS teens need to support their growth.

Teens SPARKS, or their deepest passions and interests.

Teens VOICE, or their confidence, skills and opportunities to influence things that matter to them.

Yet more than one-third of 15 year-olds (38 percent) surveyed did not score high on any of these strengths. And only 7 percent experience high levels of all three strengths, and opportunities to influence things that matter to them.
Relationships

The Relationships and Opportunities Index (ROI) measures several dimensions of adult-youth relationships beyond the family. The survey reveals that just 19 percent of 15-year-olds have the web of positive sustained and meaningful relationships with adults.
In communities in the south in the 1960's students violated segregation laws by sitting at lunch counters in white establishments. The activity triggered a new direction in the civil rights movement and highlighted how young people are central to social change efforts.

In South Africa, the children in their protest against the Bantu education system, directly confronted the government and helped to bring an end to the system of apartheid.

Increasing inequality, poverty, and disease in Brazil led to large numbers of children being forced to live on the streets without their families or any other social supports. Thousands of these street children, with the support of adult educators and youth workers, rallied to take over the Brazilian congress and force them to adopt the United Nations Conventions: Rights of the Child.
From Black Lives Matters, Dia Sin Latinos, to Nobel Peace Prize winners, an young generation is raising up!!!
To move youth from surviving to thriving, young people need: Relationships

How can we develop our own vision of youth being part of the solution?
What can we do to communicate verbally and non-verbally that we see youth this way?  

#hiphope
A “Spark” is something inside a teenager that gets him/her excited. It is something that makes a teenager want to jump out of bed in the morning. Spark is the thing that gives teenagers (and actually all people) meaning.

The data that he and the Search Institute have collected indicates that 43 percent of boys and 65 percent of girls find their sparks within the creative arts, another 37 percent of boys and 16 percent of girls find their sparks in athletics, and 18 percent of boys and girls find their spark in learning (history, science, literature, and so on) (Benson, 2008).

Research with over three thousand youth indicates that youth who spend time focusing on their sparks demonstrate increased academic achievement, decreased depression, and a drop in violence.

Research From Peter Bensons Book: Sparks
Elements of Intelligence:

DJ - Music Smart
MC - Word Smart
Breaking - Body Smart

Graffiti - Picture Smart

Spiritual Element - Big Question Smart

Street Knowledge - Environment Smart
Promoter - People Smart

Street Entrepreneurship - Numbers Smart
To move youth from surviving to thriving, young people need: **Support with Sparks**

**What are your sparks?**

**What are the hidden sparks of your youth who are not engaged?**

**Who can we connect them to that will help mentor them and nurture these sparks into a flame?**

#hiphope
Youth VOICE

LEADERSHIP-Has had a leadership role in the past year.

COMFORT EXPRESSING VOICE-Feels comfortable suggesting activities, sharing ideas about rules, and helping to organize events.

COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING-Believes he or she can help solve community problems.

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT-Plans to be involved, or has already been involved, in political and civic life.
Youth VOICE

Definition of Youth Voice (as defined by youth): An Expression of the human spirit that is shown in different forms such as art, words, poetry, and music. Engaging in the creation of your own opportunities to SPEAK OUT to authority...Believing and putting our voices into practice so youth can be taken seriously.
The Annenberg Institute found that civic engagement contributed to increased student attendance, improved test scores, higher graduation rates and increased college-going aspirations for high school aged youth. (Mediratta et al., 2008)

**Benefits of Youth Voice To Organizations:**
1. Helps organizations become more effective.
2. Energizes adult leaders/workers in organization.
3. Allows organizations to increase their funding streams.

(Mediratta et al., 2008)
To move youth from surviving to thriving, young people need: Voice

In what ways can we begin to increase youth voice into more programs and communities in Illinois?

What transformation could take place in the process? #hiphope
We create communities of hope that lets youth thrive by:
1. Relationships
2. Sparks
3. Voice
Every generation has been named by what has happened to them, what if this generation could be named by what they made happen?
Link to powerpoint, Hiphope Resources, and Program Samples

www.thegoodlifealliance.org