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## **Jesus Juarez, Molly Moon, and Margo Patzer Chosen to Serve on Youth Advisory Council for the Minnesota Alliance With Youth and Youth Community Connections**

*Fifteen Youth Bring Voice to Communities Across Minnesota*

The Minnesota Alliance With Youth (Minnesota Alliance) and Youth Community Connections (YCC) are pleased to announce that Jesus Juarez, Molly Moon, and Margo Patzer have been chosen as a member of the new jointly sponsored statewide Youth Advisory Council.

The Youth Advisory Council, which has 15 youth members ages 14 to 18 along with adult advisors, represents youth from communities across Minnesota.

Jesus, Molly, and Margo will serve on the Youth Advisory Council through January 2008 and will promote youth voice in their community and lead youth actions that will help make a difference for young people in their community and across the State of Minnesota. Youth leaders will gain skills in leadership and civic engagement. In return they will provide advice and youth perspective for work by the Minnesota Alliance and the YCC, participate in committee meetings and events of the Minnesota Alliance and YCC, and create or participate in local or statewide efforts addressing issues important to young people.

### **About the Minnesota Alliance With Youth [www.mnyouth.net](http://www.mnyouth.net)**

The Minnesota Alliance With Youth was founded 10 years ago as a statewide network of youth advocates based on research that youth succeed if they have five fundamental resources: caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, effective education and opportunities to help others.

Because we know no one single source can meet all five of youths' fundamental resources, the Alliance coordinates resources across communities, bringing together organizations such as schools, cities and other governments, non-profits and for-profits, and individuals such as adult mentors, to ensure all young people have access and opportunities needed for success.

In addition to coordinating community resources, the Alliance contributes resources by recruiting and managing individuals to work as Promise Fellows, funded through AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, at 60 sites around Minnesota.

### **About Youth Community Connections [www.youthcommunityconnections.org](http://www.youthcommunityconnections.org)**

The Youth Community Connections (formerly MN Out-of-School Time Partnership) is an alliance of public and private organizations dedicated to the belief that all Minnesota communities should have options for children and youth to learn, develop, and contribute during non-school hours.

YCC aims to support opportunities children and youth need to succeed in school, work and life by ensuring policies and funding are available to support access to quality afterschool and community-based learning opportunities and experiences.

In addition, YCC works to build the capacity of afterschool and community-based organizations and providers by sponsoring research that will inform the field and facilitating efforts to define quality standards for providers and programs.

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