**2012 Youth and Family Summit**

**On April 28, 2012, hundreds of local high school and middle school students and their parents and guardians will gather for a day of interactive programs to think critically about education, their future, and the ways to eliminate barriers to their success.**

**The Summit is a youth and family-centered initiative for students and their families staged by a coalition of educators, students, and families. It offers students and parents/guardians opportunities to engage in the planning process, serve as co-presenters, and develop projects beyond the one-day summit.**

**For more information, visit us online at** [**www.pugetsound.edu/raceandpedagogy**](http://www.pugetsound.edu/raceandpedagogy)

**or email** **raceandpedagogy@pugetsound.edu**

**or email Noah Prince at nprince@tacoma360**



**2012 Youth and Family Summit**

**Saturday, April 28, 2012**

**Lincoln High School, Tacoma, WA**

**Statement of Purpose**

You are invited to participate in the 2012 Youth and Family Summit, a joint venture among the Tacoma School District, Tacoma 360, the REACH Center, and the Race and Pedagogy Initiative at the University of Puget Sound. This summit is part of a collaborative and continuous effort to facilitate an authentic public space for students, schools, and families to engage in purposeful dialogue, build collaborations, form partnerships, and take personal and collective action on critical issues around education and excellence.

The youth focus builds on the 2010 Tacoma Public Schools Student’s Voices Summit and four previous youth summits in Tacoma, the last one being in 2010, when the youth summit joined forces with the Race and Pedagogy Initiative to stage the 2010 All City Race and Pedagogy Youth Summit as a preconference event to the University of Puget Sound’s Second Quadrennial Race and Pedagogy National Conference. The National Conference was a collaborative development involving and engaging a broad group of educators and community members committed to improving the racial-cultural experiences of all our students, preparing them for citizenship and leadership in a diverse world where race continues to matter.

The aim of the 2010 All City Race & Pedagogy Youth Summit was to mobilize college and high school students in discussions around critical issues on education, social justice, personal and community wellness, and civic participation. Partners in the summit included Lincoln High School, College Success Foundation, Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, Hilltop Artists, The Grand Cinema, and many more. The 2010 Youth Summit drew more than 700 students from area high schools and middle schools in the South Sound region. Tacoma Public Schools recognized the Youth Summit as one of their top five accomplishments of the year. Feedback from participants showed that students valued interactive sessions that engaged them in courageous conversations about race and racism, social justice, and access to resources and opportunities of higher learning. Feedback from parents said that engaging whole families, schools, and communities as part of the student’s educational journey is powerful and necessary.

Informed by the previous efforts and recent feedback, the 2012 Summit’s youth programming track aims to facilitate educational success among participants through the following:

* Developing and engaging youth in critical thinking about their education, including the role of family, schools, community, and culture.
* Empowering youth to advocate for quality education.
* Equipping them with skills to organize and collaborate with peers to build student organizations.
* Promoting educational achievement and success among youth.
* Engaging youth in critical and productive dialogue about social issues such as equity, race, class, and representation and their role in education.

The parents/guardians focus continues the work of the 2011 Tacoma Public Schools Community Awareness for Student Achievement (CASA) project and the 2009 Race & Pedagogy Parents/Guardians Conference. This focus realizes the mantra that parents are the first teachers of their children.

The 2012 Summit’s parents/guardians programming track aims to empower partnership between parents/guardians and schools to achieve the following:

* 1. Gain new skills in navigating and negotiating the specific challenges of education systems. Become powerful educational advocates for ALL children, including partnering with educators and policy-makers to embrace an overarching vision of student success.
	2. Understand how students are underserved due to race and/or economic hardship and how Tacoma’s student achievement lines up with state and national achievement.  Develop personal, collective, and systemic strategies and accountability to remedy disproportionality, disparity, and structural inequalities.
	3. Build understanding of the existing gaps in opportunity, expectations, and achievement.  Develop the skills and sense of urgency to take action to close these gaps.
	4. Function as allies for one another across social groupings such as race and economics.
	5. Embrace a *cradle to career* belief that children will go to college or follow career paths beyond high school.  Promote the expectation of post-secondary learning in children.

The 2012 Youth and Family Summit then is an effort to construct an inclusive program agenda that seeks to alter power relationships by engaging high school students and families throughout the planning process, mentoring students and inviting parents to serve as co-presenters so their voices can shape the way schools undertake education, and supporting student and family efforts for quality education, with adequate resources beyond the one-day Summit. We will create in this Summit a learning environment for parents/guardians and students where they can engage with educators both to imagine and recognize possibilities for success and work collaboratively to achieve them. In the face of difficult challenges in education we invite participants to “look at things as if they could be otherwise” with the confidence and means for inventing the future.

Workshops for the 2012 Youth and Family Summit will occur in two separate tracks, with opportunities for everyone to come together at different points throughout the day.

* Parents/Guardians Workshops will be coordinated by Tacoma Public Schools (Tacoma 360).
* Youth Workshops will be coordinated by the Race and Pedagogy Initiative.
* SEE THE TWO PROPOSAL GUIDELINES BELOW.

**2012 Youth and Family Summit**

**Saturday, April 28, 2012**

**Lincoln High School, Tacoma, WA**

**Invitation for Parents/Guardians Program Proposals**

**Due by: February 29, 2012**

**Email proposals to:** **nprince@tacoma360**

**For questions, contact above email or: 253.579. 1165**

The 2012 Youth and Family Summit planning committee invites proposals for interactive program sessions in a diverse range of formats. Our approach to the 2012 Family Summit enacts mutual engagement between educators and families at every stage of its planning and subsequent staging on April 28, 2012. We invite you to join us in this approach by asking that your listed presenters include where possible, both educators and parents/guardians who will have an active role in the development and presentation of the proposed program. As you plan your program, please keep in mind that Parents/Guardians sessions will run approximately 60 minutes.

For us to achieve our goals for this Summit it is imperative that your program narrative answer the following key questions:

1. What are your program goals?

1. What do you expect parents/guardians to walk away with from your session?
2. How will your session empower parents/guardians to achieve one or more of the following:
	1. Become powerful educational advocates for their children, including partnering with educators and policy-makers to embrace an overarching vision of student success. Gain new skills in navigating and negotiating the specific challenges of education systems.
	2. Understand how students are underserved due to race and/or economic hardship and how Tacoma’s student achievement lines up with state and national achievement.  Use relevant entry points and develop strategies to creatively engage in challenging and remedying disproportionality, disparity, and structural inequalities
	3. Build understanding of the existing gaps in opportunity, expectations, and achievement.  Develop the skills and sense of urgency to take action to close these gaps.
	4. Function as allies for one another across social groupings such as race and economics.
	5. Embrace a *cradle to career* belief that children will go to college or follow career paths beyond high school.  Promote the expectation of post-secondary learning in children.
3. How will you facilitate time for reflection during your session? This could happen in a lot of different ways, of course. Please describe how your method of facilitating reflection will capture valuable knowledge from participants to be considered for action-oriented follow-up.
4. Session Title:
5. Brief Program Description (should not exceed 75 words):
6. Detailed Program Narrative (should not exceed 1,000 words):
7. Room Setup and Special Requests (technology needs, tables/chairs arrangement):
8. List presenters (including parent/guardian where possible):

Presenter 1 & Primary Contact:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Presenter 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Presenter 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Presenter 4: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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*\*\*Please include any additional presenters*