Creating a System of High-Quality Education Options to Serve At-Risk Students
Indianapolis, Indiana
April 23-25, 2018

The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) is organizing a professional development opportunity for education leaders to explore how best to leverage opportunities in policy and practice to create a system of high-quality alternative settings to serve all students, including at-risk populations. The conference will consist of site visits, panel presentations, and group discussions with other attendees, local leaders, school officials, and students. This conference will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, beginning the evening of Monday, April 23, 2018 and ending by 1:00pm on Wednesday, April 25, 2018.

Attendees will have opportunities to learn about:
1. Strategies to develop multiple pathways for at-risk students, including:
   a. Connections to college and career, including dual enrollment and transition activities
   b. Work-based and project-based learning opportunities
   c. Innovative instructional strategies
   d. Social and emotional supports and wraparound services
2. Cross-system collaboration in service of at-risk youth, including:
   a. Students with disabilities
   b. Justice-involved youth
   c. Youth in foster care
   d. Other at-risk youth who have previously withdrawn from school or who are significantly academically off-track
3. Policy considerations that may affect at-risk students, including:
   a. Delinquency prevention and recovery
   b. Transition supports and structured pathways
   c. High school diplomas
   d. Accountability

Agenda
Monday, April 23, 2018

3:30 – 5:30pm  Complimentary small bites, coffee, and beverages available
The Alexander Hotel – Nourishment Hub, 2nd Floor
333 South Delaware Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

5:00-6:00pm  Registration and Conference Check-In
The Alexander Hotel – CityWay Gallery, 1st Floor

6:00-7:00pm  Opening Dinner and Conference Orientation
Hotel - CityWay Gallery, 1st Floor

Following dinner, AYPF staff will provide an overview of the conference agenda, folder materials, reflection journal, and introduce keynote speakers.
7:00-8:00pm  Setting the Stage: Creating an Education System to Serve At-Risk Students in Indiana  
*Hotel - CityWay Gallery, 1st Floor*

Speakers will set the education context for the state of Indiana and discuss the leadership at the state-level and collaboration between the Indiana Department of Education and Indiana Department of Correction for creating a system of high-quality education options for at-risk students, particularly youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

Speakers:
- **Courtney Bowling**, School Psychologist, Indiana Department of Correction: Division of Youth Services
- **Catherine Danyluk**, Director, Office of Student Services, Indiana Department of Education
- **Kimb Stewart**, Alternative Education Specialist, Indiana Department of Education

**Tuesday, April 24, 2018**

7:30-8:15am  Breakfast Available  
*Hotel – Progue’s Run, 2nd Floor*

8:30am  Bus Departs for Indianapolis Metropolitan High School

9:00-10:30am  Early Morning Site Visit: Indianapolis Metropolitan High School  
*Indianapolis Metropolitan High School*  
1635 W. Michigan Street (Door #8)  
Indianapolis, IN 46222

Founded in 2004 and operated by Goodwill Education Initiatives Inc., the Indianapolis Metropolitan High School (Indy Met) is a free public school for students in grades 9-12. The Indy Met is focused on serving students who face significant barriers such as involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems, special education, homelessness, teen pregnancy, and other at-risk factors. The Indy Met offers small class sizes allowing for individualized attention in all core classes, and students are able to earn the Core 40 Diploma, Core 40 Academic Honors Diploma, or Core 40 Technical Honors Diploma. The Indy Met assists students in reaching their postsecondary goals with free dual-credit college courses, industry-recognized certifications, and the unique opportunity to be placed in a high-wage job immediately after graduation.

Visit will include:
- Tour of Indy Met and individual classrooms
- Student panel
- Discussion with teachers and administrators

10:45-11:45am  Late Morning Site Visit: Goodwill Excel Center of Central & Southern Indiana  
*Goodwill Excel Center of Central & Southern Indiana*  
1635 W. Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46222

The Goodwill Excel Center of Central & Southern Indiana (Excel Center) is a free public high school that gives older youth and adults the opportunity to earn an Indiana Core 40 high school diploma. Operated by Goodwill Education Initiatives Inc., the Excel Center opened in 2010 and has since expanded to 12 locations in Indiana, 5 of which are in Indianapolis. The Excel Center aims to prepare students for postsecondary education and work and improve their career potential by building higher skills and
specializations necessary to succeed in a 21st century workplace. The Excel Center model features an accelerated curriculum in the core areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, allowing students to earn credits at a faster pace. The Excel Center also addresses needs outside of the classroom, provides free drop-in child care centers, offers free transportation assistance, and gives students the ability to balance school and work schedules.

Visit will include:
- Tour of Excel Center
- Discussion with teachers and administrators

Noon-12:45pm  Lunch and Large Group Reflection
   Goodwill Excel Center

Participants will break for lunch and be asked to reflect on their experience, ideas, and lingering questions in their reflection journals and during large group discussion.

1:30-3:30pm  Afternoon Site Visit: Options Charter School
   Options Charter School, Carmel Campus
   530 West Carmel Drive
   Carmel, IN 46032

Options Charter Schools (Options) are free public charter schools with two campuses that serve students in the northern suburbs of Indianapolis. The Carmel campus (grades 9-12) opened in 2002 and was one of the first charter schools in Indiana, and the Noblesville campus (grades 7-12) opened in 2006. Options has designed a school experience with the purpose of ensuring success for students who have previously struggled in the traditional large public school environment. At Options, students are not asked to conform to the system, rather the system has been designed to accommodate their needs and past experiences to ensure maximum achievement. Through small class sizes and an individualized academic approach, the highly trained instructors and staff propel students to achieving academic success both in high school and postsecondary.

Visit will include:
- Tour of Options Charter and individual classrooms
- Student panel
- Discussion with teachers and administrators

3:30pm  Board Bus for Return to Hotel

3:30 – 5:30pm  Complimentary small bites, coffee, and beverages available
   The Alexander Hotel – Nourishment Hub, 2nd Floor

4:15-5:30pm  Small Group Debrief and Large Group Share-out
   Hotel – Progue’s Run, 2nd Floor

Participants will break into small groups to discuss specific state- and district-level policies and practices needed to support high-quality education options for at-risk students. Small groups will reflect upon how current policies and practices can be expanded to reach more youth and identify opportunities for cross-system collaboration. Groups will then share out ideas to the large group. To close, participants will brainstorm information, ideas, and action steps to present to their colleagues when they return home.

6:00pm  Dinner in Downtown Indianapolis (on your own)
Wednesday, April 25, 2018

6:30-7:15am  Breakfast Available and Hotel Checkout  
*Hotel – Progue’s Run, 2nd Floor*

7:30am  Bus Departs for Marion Academy

8:00-10:00am  Early Morning Site Visit: Marion Academy Open Campus  
*Marion Academy Open Campus*  
2107 N. Riley Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46218

Marion Academy is a charter school network with three campuses that opened in 2015. The Marion Academy Open Campus is an alternative school that serves students who have been suspended or expelled from Indianapolis Public Schools and districts in the surrounding suburbs. Marion Academy aims to prepare students to transition into postsecondary education and work, with a focus on college and career exploration and workplace readiness. Marion Academy offers the Core 40, Core 40 Honors, and the Core 40 Technical Honors Diplomas and also encourages students to receive at least one industry-recognized certification. Marion Academy is committed to the achievement of each individual learner through goal setting and the development of an Individualized Learning Plan, while also creating a learning environment that fosters the ideals of community, scholarship, respect, and responsibility.  
Visit will include:

- Discussion with teachers and administrators
- Tour of Marion Academy and individual classrooms
- Panel of Marion Academy and former Hillside Academy students

10:30-11:45am  Late Morning Site Visit: Hillside Academy at Marion County Juvenile Detention Center  
*Hillside Academy Campus*  
2451 N. Keystone Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46218

Hillside Academy, one of the Marion Academy campuses, is designed for students detained in the Marion County Juvenile Detention Center (MCJDC). The goal of Hillside Academy is to provide quality educational services while students are detained. Hillside Academy provides a quality, standards-based education for each student in residence at MCJDC, continues identified instructional objectives for each student in residence, and provides an instructional transition for students entering and exiting the program. Students at Hillside Academy can transition to Marion Academy’s Open Campus, therefore the educational program is designed to ensure a seamless transition of work and credits.  
Visit will include:

- Tour of Hillside Academy and individual classrooms
- Tour of MCJDC
- Discussion with teachers and school/facility administrators

Noon-1:00pm  Lunch and Final Large Group Debrief  
*Marion Academy Open Campus*

Participants will break for lunch and be asked to reflect on their experience, ideas, and lingering questions in their reflection journals and during large group discussion. To close, participants will commit to and record on a self-addressed postcard three action steps that will do when they return to their work.  
1:00pm  Conference Adjourned and Return to Hotel