

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release



Contact: Janet Wakefield, janet@thejourneyonline.org
Indiana Youth Services Association
317-875-5756 www.thejourneyonline.org

Headline: **Twenty-nine youth workers from across Indiana selected to prestigious 2021 Executive Journey Fellowship**

Twenty-nine executives from youth serving organizations from across Indiana have been selected to The 2021 Executive Journey Fellowship. In response to a growing need for ongoing professional and personal renewal in the field of youth work, the Journey Fellowship was created in 2002 and funded by the Lilly Endowment Inc. A program of The Indiana Youth Service Association, The Executive Journey Fellowship provides Indiana's youth workers greater opportunities to explore meaning and purpose in their lives and make stronger commitments to the field of youth work.

"This Fellowship is about renewing individuals, which leads to renewing organizations and ultimately, to renewing the entire field of youth work," says Tom Plake, Journey Leader.

Each of the twenty-nine participants in the Journey Fellowship will attend a series of residential retreats designed to create new ways of thinking about and practicing youth work within existing systems and youth programs. Fellows are awarded personal renewal scholarships, and will be supported to make a difference within their local organizations and communities.

So far, the Journey Fellowship has served more than 1,000 prospective and current youth workers (2003-2020) through this retreat-based format. Fellows are engaged in creating leadership and renewal opportunities throughout the state of Indiana. Countless other youth workers have been served through conference workshops, day-long seminars, and other types of renewal for staff and organizations within local communities facilitated by Journey Leaders.

"We know that youth workers play a vital role in the lives of young people. It has been documented in dozens of ways that youth who enjoy positive relationship with adults over time do better in life," explains Janet Wakefield, Journey Leader. "We also know that many people enter the profession because they 'want to make a difference' and they enjoy building positive relationships with young people. The Executive Journey Fellowship provides Indiana's youth workers greater opportunities to strengthen themselves as leaders and invest in their careers serving the young people of Indiana."

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Congratulations

2021 Executive Journey Fellows!

The Journey is pleased and honored to announce the 29 distinguished Indiana leaders in the field of youth development who have been nominated and selected to be the nineteenth class of The Executive Journey Fellowship.

Avon

Yalonda Brown

Senior Outreach Manager, Indiana Youth Institute

Bloomington

Naomi Koeplin

Education Consultant, Indiana Department of Child Services

East Chicago

Rita Daniels

Social Worker, Community Engagement Coordinator, School City of East Chicago

Evansville

Alexander Burton

Program Manager, Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation OptIN

Fort Wayne

Laura Tibbets

Division Manager, Indiana Department of Child Services

Kelly Updike

President & CEO, Embassy Theatre

Franklin

Heather Angebrandt

Assistant Director of Child Welfare Services, Adult & Child Health

Granger

LaTasha Bosse

Regional Vice President of Programs, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Elkhart County

Greendale

Steven Cruse

Family Case Manager Supervisor, Indiana Department of Child Services

Indianapolis

TaWanda Dent

Vice President of Community and Provider Relations, Choices Coordinated Care Solutions

Bethany Ecklor

School and Community Based Programs Director, IN Division of Mental Health and Addiction

Brent Freeman

Executive Director Designate, Camptown, Inc.

Erika Quarles

Assistant Director, Adult Learning, Girls, Inc.

Becky Reich

Director of Capacity, Marion County Commission on Youth

Jeremy Roseberry

Director of Community Health, Health Care Education and Training, Inc.

Kate Schedel

Director of Maternal, Adolescent, & Children's Programs, Indiana Department of Health

Karlin Tichenor

Director of Social Emotional Health, Indiana Youth Institute

Justin Tillis

Local Office Director, Indiana Department of Child Services

Kia Wright

Executive Director, Eclectic Soul VOICES Corporation

Kokomo

Stacey Morgan

Local Office Director, Indiana Department of Child Services

LaPorte

Steven Bernth

Executive Director, Youth Service Bureau of LaPorte County

Louisville

Robert Fenwick

Program Director, Family & Children's Place

Michigan City

Dion Campbell

Chief of Police, Michigan City Police Department

Raymond Davis

JAG Specialist Michigan City High school, JobWorks, Inc.

Muncie

Michael Long

Program Director, Ball State University/Muncie P3

Noblesville

Brittany Winebar

Director of Mission Achievement, Prevail, Inc.

Portland

PJ Corwin

Executive Director, Youth Service Bureau of Jay County, Inc.

Terre Haute

Kathy Deal

District Intervention Coach, Vigo County School Corporation

Valparaiso

Esther Lewis

Chief Executive Officer, Holistic Evolution, Inc.

The Journey is home to a variety of programs that support the renewal and professionalization of youth workers in Indiana and around the country. To learn more, visit www.thejourneyonline.org

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