

DATE: October 2003

TO: Advocates for Youth with Disabilities

FROM: Michigan Youth Leadership Forum Steering Committee

SUBJECT: Search for Candidates for Fifth Michigan Youth Leadership Forum

We need your help! Building on the success of the previous four Michigan Youth Leadership Forums (MYLF), we are looking for high school students with disabilities who have leadership potential to apply for the 5th MYLF. The Forum will take place June 13-17, 2004, at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

Please share the attached application packet with students with disabilities who will be high school juniors and seniors in the 2004-2005 school year; the packet may be duplicated. **The deadline for the return of applications is December 31, 2003.** Approximately 30 students will be selected through a competitive process, and there is **no cost for students to attend.**

The Forum is a leadership development program, which will enable students to learn from each other and from successful adults with disabilities. Core curriculum will include the history of the disability movement, leadership development, and community and civic involvement. Further information is attached to the student application packet.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Margaret Heiser, Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns, Family Independence Agency, at 1-877-499-6232 (toll free)(voice or TTY); 517-334-8000 (voice or TTY); E-mail heiserm2@michigan.gov; or fax 517-334-6637. Thank you for your help!

Attachment

October 2003

TO: **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

FROM: Dan Vivian, Chair
 Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns

SUBJECT: **AN INVITATION FOR YOU TO APPLY FOR OUR 2004 YOUTH
LEADERSHIP FORUM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Enclosed is an application form for our Michigan Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) for Students with Disabilities. The year 2004 will be the fifth year for this innovative, exciting leadership development program in Michigan. The five-day Forum includes many exciting, educational activities to help you toward your career goals. The Forum will take place June 13-17, 2004 at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

Students - we are inviting you to apply, and we are asking your help in recruiting other students to apply for the Forum. The enclosed application form may be duplicated and distributed as necessary. Completed application packets must be postmarked by **December 31, 2003**, and mailed to our staff office in Lansing. Approximately 30 students with disabilities will be selected, **through a competitive process**, to attend the Forum.

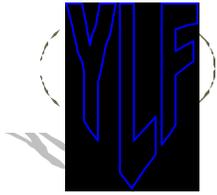
The Forum is for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities who are leaders or who have demonstrated leadership potential in their communities and schools.

The Michigan Youth Leadership Forum is a cooperative project, coordinated by the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns, Family Independence Agency, with the assistance of a number of individuals and representatives from a variety of agencies. **There is no charge for you to attend.**

If you have questions about this project, please contact Margaret Heiser at 517-334-8000 (voice or TTY) or 1-877-499-6232 (toll free)(voice or TTY); E-mail at MCDC@michigan.gov; or fax 517-334-6637. We appreciate your assistance in making certain that all students have an opportunity to apply. Thank you!

DEADLINE TO APPLY: DECEMBER 31, 2003

Enclosures



MICHIGAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM
 JUNE 13-17, 2004
 MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST LANSING

SPONSORED BY MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS
 AND PARTNERS

To be eligible to apply for the Michigan Youth Leadership Forum, students must:

- a) Have a disability (as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act)
- b) Be a junior or senior in high school, or other,* by September of 2004; maximum age, 19 yrs. at time of Forum (some age/grade exceptions may be made, **HOWEVER, YOU MUST CURRENTLY BE IN AT LEAST 10TH GRADE.**)
- c) Have demonstrated leadership potential in school and the community; and
- d) Reside in Michigan

*If "other," please explain: _____

(Please see "Fact Sheet" at back of this application for more details about the Forum.)

APPLICATION FORM

DEADLINE FOR POSTMARK ON MAILED APPLICATION: December 31, 2003.

- ⇒ Alternative Formats available upon request (Margaret Heiser 1-877-499-6232, toll free).
- ⇒ Students must complete ALL information on pages 1 through 4 of this application.
- ⇒ Mail the application to the address on page 4.
- ⇒ **Please see "How Student Delegates Will be Selected and Application Instructions for Students" for additional instructions and selection criteria.** (Approximately 30 students will be selected.)

1. Name	2. Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Birth Date
4. Home Address (Street, Apartment Number) (City) (Zip Code) (County)		
5. Mailing Address (if different than above)		
6. Phone (Number and Area Code)		
7. E-Mail Address (if available)	Fax Number (if available)	
8. Parent or Guardian Name	Day-time Phone Number	

9. Name of High School	
10. School Mailing Address	
11. From whom did you receive this application?	
Name	Title
Phone Number	E-Mail Address
12. Current grade level in high school (maximum age, 19 years old at time of Forum) (some age/grade exceptions may be made, HOWEVER, YOU <u>MUST</u> CURRENTLY BE IN AT LEAST 10TH GRADE.) <input type="checkbox"/> sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> junior <input type="checkbox"/> other (please explain)	
13. State Senator	14. State Representative
15. Names of Local Newspapers (please list at least one.)	
16. School and Community Involvement Below, please briefly list your involvement with your school and community within the last five years. This may include any offices held, leadership positions, club memberships, after-school activities or work experiences, neighborhood assistance/volunteering, youth groups, etc. (Attach additional sheet, if needed).	
<u>School Activities:</u> Name of Activity and your involvement	Dates (from when to when)
<u>Community Activities:</u> Name of Activity and your involvement	Dates (from when to when)

17. Letters of Recommendation

Please attach a minimum of **two** letters of recommendation from people who can address your demonstrated or potential leadership skills or your leadership potential. **One letter must be from a high school representative and one must be from a community representative outside of your Intermediate School District. (Do not submit letters from family members).**

A. Name (school representative)	Title
Organization	Phone number
B. Name (community representative)	Title
Organization	Phone number

18. Please respond to essay questions (1), (2), (3), and (4) below. Your answers to these questions will be used to assess your readiness to participate in this leadership Forum. **Please type your responses (or use an alternate format. Alternate formats could include handwritten [printed], audiotaped, or videotaped responses)** on separate page(s) and attach to your completed application packet.

- (1) Why do you want to come to the Michigan Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF)?
- (2) Why do you think you should be selected to attend the MYLF?
- (3) Describe an experience in your life that taught you something about disabilities.
- (4) What do you want to do after high school?

19. What is your disability? (This information will assist in assuring that we include delegates with a diversity of disabilities.)

20. Please specify your race/ethnic group (optional):

African American <input type="checkbox"/>	Caucasian <input type="checkbox"/>	Native American <input type="checkbox"/>
Asian/Pacif Islander <input type="checkbox"/>	Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/>	Multiracial <input type="checkbox"/>
Other:		

Please use the checklist below to make certain your application packet is complete. All questions must be answered and requested letters and information provided. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

<u>Required items</u>	<u>Enclosed</u>
1. Completed Application Form (4 pages)	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Two letters (minimum) of recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Responses to four essay questions (#18 on application)	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Student Signature	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Parent Signature	<input type="checkbox"/>

I would like to be considered for the Michigan Youth Leadership Forum for high school students with disabilities. I acknowledge receipt, understanding, and acceptance of the attached Rules and Guidelines.

Student Signature

Date

To be signed by the student's parent or guardian:

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend, if selected, the Michigan Youth Leadership Forum at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. I also assume responsibility for my son/daughter's conduct while participating in the leadership training activities. I acknowledge receipt, understanding, and acceptance of the attached Rules and Guidelines.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

Thank you for completing this application. Please mail it to the address below. If you have any questions, please contact:

Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns
Family Independence Agency
320 North Washington Square, Suite 250
Lansing, MI 48913

517-334-8000 (voice/TTY)
877-499-6232 (toll free, voice/TTY)
Fax Number: 517-334-6637
Web Address: www.mcdc-dodhh.org
E-Mail: mcdc@michigan.gov

Please keep a photocopy of this application for your records.

<p>The Family Independence Agency will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to an FIA office in your county</p>
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FACT SHEET

2004 MICHIGAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM
FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
JUNE 13-17, 2004 MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY,
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN
AN EXCITING, EDUCATIONAL, FUN, FIVE-DAY
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

WE ARE LOOKING FOR FUTURE COMMUNITY LEADERS!

Who can participate in the Youth Leadership Forum?

Students with disabilities who will be juniors or seniors by September of 2004 and who:

- ◆ Demonstrate leadership potential
- ◆ Demonstrate involvement in extra-curricular activities (such as sports, the arts, or student organizations)
- ◆ Demonstrate community involvement
- ◆ Demonstrate the ability to interact effectively with other students

What will happen at the Forum?

We will . . .

1. Bring together students with disabilities who demonstrate current or potential leadership qualities;
2. Share information with each other. Forum programs will include such topics as “self-advocacy in employment, education, and community living,” “assistive technology,” “the history of disability as a culture,” and “disability rights.” Forum presenters who will meet with the students include community leaders with disabilities, including legislators and numerous other professionals;
3. Identify existing barriers to personal and professional success and develop plans to deal with those barriers;
4. Teach consensus building to enable students to select an issue to be debated on Capital Day; and
5. Assist students in developing a “Personal Leadership Plan” which will include specific action plans for the students to follow when they return to their communities.

The Forum will include small group discussions with fellow students, large group presentations, activities such as, a dance, a formal luncheon with community leaders, and a day in the state Capital.

Why have this Forum?

Young people with disabilities have more opportunities and more challenges than at any other time in our nation's history. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) offers unprecedented opportunities for young people with disabilities to fully develop as constructive, contributing members of our society. However, many young people need peer interaction, encouragement, and information about resources to develop as leaders in their communities. This Forum will provide the students the opportunity to learn from each other and from successful adults with disabilities who are recognized leaders and role models. Such a Forum benefits not only the participants, but all young people with disabilities, our communities in general, and the adults who assist in producing the Forum.

How will this Forum happen?

- WHO: Approximately 30 high school students with disabilities will be selected to attend through a competitive process.
- WHEN: June 13-17, 2004
- WHERE: Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan
- COST: Students will not be charged to attend this Forum.

For additional information, please contact the
MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS
FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY
320 North Washington Square, Suite 250
Lansing, MI 48913
517-334-8000 (voice/TTY) or 877-499-6232 (toll free, voice/TTY)
E-mail: MCDC@michigan.gov
Web address: www.mcdc-dodhh.org
Fax: 517-334-6637

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS

The Commission was established 54 years ago, in 1949, and is now located in the state Family Independence Agency. The Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns serves as an advocate and an information and technical assistance resource for employers, state and local government, people with disabilities, families, and the general public.

STUDENTS WHO ARE SELECTED TO ATTEND THE FORUM WILL BE NOTIFIED BY THE FIRST PART OF **APRIL 2004** AND PROVIDED WITH MORE DETAILED INFORMATION.

MICHIGAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM – 2004

HOW STUDENT DELEGATES WILL BE SELECTED AND
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS

(KEEP THIS PAGE. DO NOT MAIL WITH APPLICATION.)

1. To be eligible to apply for the Michigan Youth Leadership Forum, students must:
 - a) Have a disability (as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act)
 - b) Be a junior or senior in high school, or other,* by September of 2004; maximum age: 19 years at time of the Forum (some age/grade exceptions may be made, **HOWEVER, MUST CURRENTLY BE IN AT LEAST 10TH GRADE**)
 - c) Have demonstrated leadership potential in school and the community; and,
 - d) Reside in Michigan*If "other," please explain in application.
2. Applicants may enlist the assistance of another person in completing the form so long as the answers are those of the applicant.
3. Please use the checklist below to make certain your application packet is complete. All questions must be answered and requested letters and information provided. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

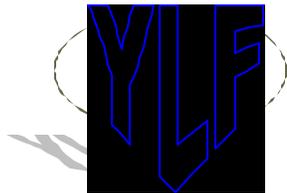
<u>Required Items</u>	<u>Enclosed</u>
1. Completed Application Form (4 pages)	_____
2. Two letters (minimum) of recommendation	_____
3. Responses to the four essay questions	_____
4. Student Signature	_____
5. Parent Signature	_____

4. Applicants must mail the completed application packet to the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns office -- postmarked no later than **December 31, 2003.**
5. All completed application packets will be reviewed based on the following:

Responses to the four essay questions	40 points
Contributions to school	20 points
Contributions to community	20 points
Two letters of recommendation from high school and community representatives	20 points

6. Interviews may be held with applicants, if needed, to assist in the selection process.
7. All applicants will be notified by letter whether they are selected or not selected to attend the Forum (letters will be mailed by the first part of **April 2004**). Approximately 30 students will be selected to attend.
8. After being selected, students will be asked to fill out a confirmation form and provide additional information to the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns office.
9. All approved appropriate expenses will be paid by the Youth Leadership Forum project, including expenses such as travel for students, lodging, food, special dietary needs, interpreters, assistive listening devices, and personal care attendants.

MICHIGAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM (MYLF) 2004



RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT DELEGATES
These Rules and Guidelines have been developed to promote a positive learning environment for all participants.

ALL DELEGATES MUST:

1. Maintain a respectful attitude toward peers and conference staff.
2. Interact with as many MYLF students as possible during the Forum.
3. Maintain the condition of residence rooms and all other areas. **Participants will have to pay for property damage they cause and for lost room keys or towels.**
4. Be on time.
5. Respect the scheduled program. Be at designated places and stay with your assigned group at all times. **Attendance at all sessions is mandatory, including ALL meals and social functions.**
6. Comply with the following: coed visitation is never allowed in the residence rooms.
7. Use buddy system, for safety reasons, when not in structured activities. Do not wander off alone.
8. Respond to wake-up call at 6:30 a.m. Breakfast time will be from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
9. Be in your room each night for lights out at 11 p.m.

Additional Requirements

- **Smoking and possession of or use of illegal chemicals or alcohol are strictly prohibited.** Possession and use of prescription or other approved medications are permitted only with written permission/instruction slip on file from parent/guardian or physician. Medications can only be dispensed under supervision by the conference staff, unless written authorization is received from parent or guardian.
- After arrival on campus, no student delegates are allowed to drive or ride in personal vehicles belonging to student delegates (until departure, with parental permission).
- It is recommended that walkmans, radios, and electronic games not be brought to the Forum.
- Other than West Holmes Hall, visitation at all other MSU residence halls and facilities is restricted to scheduled or supervised periods of time.

If you have any problems or questions, please contact your group mentors or other conference staff.

Please note: any violations of these rules could result in students being sent home immediately at parents/guardians' expense. Remember that you have been selected to attend this Forum because of your leadership potential. Enjoy yourself and recognize the responsibility you have with this honor.