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Promote 3-D Awareness,  
download December's  
PSA at:  
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### EVENTS

- ✓ National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness month
- ✓ Dec. 7th & 8th Governor's Conference on Aging. Go to [ww.in.gov/fssa/](http://ww.in.gov/fssa/)
- ✓ Indiana Public Health Association distributes call for proposals

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## ACROSS OUR DESKS TO YOURS

### Point of Youth students make a difference

By Jennifer Wagner, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

Question: What do you get when you combine 40 motivated high school students, an array of public policy issues and a vision to influence the future of the State of Indiana? Answer: Point of Youth (POY).

The program, organized and sponsored by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, invites students from across the state to share their unique perspective with the Governor, Indiana General Assembly and other decision-makers on issues such as alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, impaired driving, traffic safety and public safety issues.

Students interested in becoming part of POY submit applications to the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. Once selected, the group of no more than 45 students takes on the leadership of the program under adult supervision.

The students plan meetings, events and outreach efforts throughout the year.

Prevention of drug and alcohol usage is a key topic among high school students, and POY members devote much of their time to working on strategies that will change behavior among their peers.

Last month, POY members and

more than 300 students from across Indiana gathered for the ninth annual Youth Summit. They spent three days meeting in youth-led small groups, hearing from experts and discussing relevant topics before issuing their top three priorities for the upcoming legislative session. Among their recommendations was a proposal to implement random drug testing of all students and staff in Indiana public schools.

The students will take their recommendations to the Statehouse on January 19, 2005, for Youth Legislative Day. They will have a chance to meet with their local legislators and discuss those issues that matter most to Indiana youth.

On February 19, 2005, the POY members will coordinate and oversee the first annual Middle School Youth Summit, a one-day version of the high school program that will involve middle school students from across the state who are interested in getting involved in their communities and schools.

For more information about Point of Youth or youth programming through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, please contact the Youth Program Manager at 317-233-3789 or [poy@cji.in.gov](mailto:poy@cji.in.gov).

### IYI—Continues to serve Indiana's youth workers

By JoBeth McCarthy-Jean, Indiana Prevention Resource Center

On November 15th and 16th in downtown Indianapolis, the Indiana Youth Institute (IYI), along with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Anthem, the Dekko Foundation and the Lilly Endowment, held yet another successful Kids Count in Indiana Conference.

Lou Gossett, Jr., accompanied by family, delivered a powerful speech to more than 1,000 youth serving participants. Conference attendees commented that his speech was "moving and inspiring." Hosting a plethora of valuable sessions for participants to attend and releasing the *2004 Kids Count Data Book*, IYI once again offers Hoosiers a dynamic conference loaded with tools to advance the health of Indiana's children and youth.

Partnering with multiple youth serving state and local agencies, data collected to monitor the health and wellness of Hoosier young people has been compiled by IYI and published annually since 1993, in a user-friendly format. The comprehensive compilation of data enables administrators, policy makers, prevention and treatment providers, volunteers and advocates to plan programs, identify priority areas and, ultimately, serve Hoosier youth. Order your *2004 Kids Count Data Book* today and help drive prevention and treatment for youth across Indiana by calling 1-800-396-2700.

**Happy holidays to all from the staff at the IPRC!**