

Youth Champion Award Nominees

The Youth Commission would like to thank the dedicated employees of the City of Portland and Multnomah County who work to improve the lives of young people.

The following employees, who go above and beyond the call of duty, were nominated by their peers for the Youth Champion Awards:

The City of Portland

Susan Bailey—Water Bureau
Max Behrens—Parks and Recreation
Laurel Butman—Office of Management & Finance
Tiffini Penson—Bureau of Development Services
Pam Pham—Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Sgt. John Scruggs—Police Bureau
Sgt. George Weatheroy—Police Bureau

Multnomah County

Jill Daniels—School-Based Health Centers
Susan Palmer—School-Based Health Centers
Carla Remeschatis—School-Based Health Centers
Emily S. Ryan—CCFC
Sara Ryan—Libraries
Rebecca Stavenjord—CCFC

Special Thanks

Thank you to all our contributors

The Office of Mayor Sam Adams and the Multnomah County Commission on Children, Families and Community for housing and staffing the Youth Commission at the City and County respectively

Lisa Frank, Galia Slayin, Nate Waas Shull and former Mayor Tom Potter for their support and efforts on behalf of the Youth Commission.



Youth Commission Swearing-In Ceremony



September 21, 2009 • 5:00 PM

**Multnomah Building, First Floor
Commissioners Boardroom**



Welcome from the MYC Co-Chairs

“Welcome, and thank you for coming. Tonight we celebrate another extraordinary year of work by the Multnomah Youth Commission with the opportunity to bring forth another diverse and promising band of hard working leaders from our city and county. Join with us as we highlight the many accomplishments by youth over the past year. Refreshments will follow the meeting. Thank you, and welcome to the 2009-2010 term MYC Swearing-in Ceremony!”

Chris Edmonds & Nay’Chelle Harris, Co-Chairs.

Youth Commission Leadership

Nay’Chelle Harris, Co-Chair
Chris Edmonds, Co-Chair
Rachel Shelley, Policy Liaison
Sean Hadley, Policy Liaison

Youth Commission Staff

Multnomah County:

Emily S. Ryan, Commission on Children,
Families & Community

City of Portland:

Todd Diskin, Office of Mayor Sam Adams

Youth Commission Meetings

The Multnomah Youth Commission meets the second and fourth Sunday of every month from 4:30-7:30 pm. Our meetings alternate between Portland City Hall, (1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Portland) and the Gresham Schools Building (1331 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham).

“I accept the office of Youth Commissioner, including all the duties and responsibilities therein.

I commit faithfully and diligently represent the voices of the young people of Multnomah County and the City of Portland.

I will work to make the City & County a great place for everyone to grow up and live.”

At-Large Commissioners



Kelly Henderson (19) 3rd Year
Portland Community College
Kelly joined the MYC to be proactive in local government.



Chloe Jones (17) 1st Year
Wilson High School
Chloe would like the MYC to teach students about School Based Health Centers and for YouthPass to be expanded to middle schools this year.



Sophia Kecskes (14) 2nd Year
Cleveland High School
Personal quote: "I want to make a difference in my community. I'm very opinionated and the MYC is a place where my voice is heard."



Dylan Tingley (13) 1st Year
Grant High School
Dylan joined MYC to learn how real things get done that positively impacts the community and to try to bring many points of views...to the table.



Samantha Westmoreland (13) 1st Year
Ron Russell Middle School
Samantha believes the biggest issues facing youth in our community are peer pressure and dropping out of school.

Welcome & Youth Engagement Report 5:00 PM

Nay'Chelle Harris and Chris Edmonds, MYC Co-Chairs

Adoption of PDXYouth Website 5:10 PM

Ernesto Dominguez, MYC Policy Liaison; Jeremy Van Keuren, City of Portland Office of Management and Finance & Bill Lesh, Director—Center for Advanced Learning

Adoption of Youth Engagement Manual 5:20 PM

Ashleigh Paschel and Terrell Wilson, Youth Planning Program; Gary Marschke, Representing the Multnomah County Office of Citizen Involvement; Carolina Iraheta, Portland Bureau of Transportation

Youth Champion Award 5:40 PM

Introductions by Nay'Chelle Harris and Chris Edmonds. History and awards presented by past recipients, Tiffini Penson, Office of Management and Finance & Sarah Ryan, Multnomah County Library. *The 2009 Youth Champion Award nominees can be found on page 12 of this program.*

Swearing-In Ceremony & Recognition 5:55 PM

Opening remarks by Portland Mayor Sam Adams. Remarks & Oath of Office administered by County Chair Ted Wheeler. Introductions by Emily S. Ryan and Todd Diskin, MYC Staff. Recognition by Portland City Council and Multnomah County Commissioners. *The Oath of Office can be found on the page 11 of this program. Youth Commissioner names will be read one at time. Please hold your acknowledgements to the end.*

Reception 6:15 PM

Reception directly following swearing-in ceremony in the conference room at the back of the boardroom.

Multnomah Youth Commissioners • 2009-2010



Wilson Alness (14) 2nd Year
Cleveland High School
Wilson's favorite quote: "Be the change you wish to see in the world"—Ghandi.



Kirubiel Ayele (18) 1st Year
Roosevelt High School
Kirubiel joined the MYC "to offer what I have for something that will have a positive output for the community."



Katy Barlean (17) 1st Year
Central Catholic High School
Katy believes that youth offer heart-felt solutions to present and future problems.



Tamara Cano (16) 1st Year
Sunset High School
Tamara will be attending Early College High School at PCC Rock Creek.



Amalia Centurion (17) 3rd Year
St. Mary's Academy
Personal quote: "The biggest issue (facing youth in our community) is that lots of youth don't have a voice in their lives and choices."



Adreanna Cop (15) 3rd Year
Centennial High School
Adreanna believes one can make the world a better place by letting her voice be heard and making a difference.

Multnomah Youth Commissioners • 2009-2010



Ameneh Yasrebi (19) 1st Year
Portland State University
One of Ameneh's favorite quotes: "A person is either your brother in faith, or your equal in humanity" - Imam Ali (AS)

At-Large Commissioners



Perla Alvarez (15) 2nd Year
Ron Russell Middle School
Perla joined the MYC to try new things and meet new people. She wants the help the community and be involved.



Darby Burbridge (17) 1st Year
De La Salle North Catholic High School
Personal quote: "I wish the world could be a place where all people could feel loved and empowered by those around them."



E. Dominguez (21) 3rd Year
Out of school
Personal quote: "I feel the best work happens when youth and adults are given an equal seat and voice at the decision-making table."



Daniel Gonzalez (16) 1st Year
Roosevelt High School
Favorite saying: "A man is not a man (be)cause of physical body changes, but a man is a man because of the changes he makes throughout life."

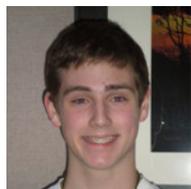


Emily Gritzmacher (17) 2nd Year
Grant High School
Emily would like the MYC to improve the drop-out rate and create dialogue about it this year.

Multnomah Youth Commissioners • 2009-2010



Karla Suarez (17) 2nd Year
Gresham High School
 Karla participates in her school's IB program, STARS, National Honor Society, Key Club, Mecha, Link Crew, and a retirement center for senior citizens.



James Todd (16) 1st Year
Franklin High School
 James believes youth can contribute by volunteering within the community; lending a helping hand in general and being there for others when they need it.



Emily Volpert (14) 1st Year
Grant High School
 Emily is also involved in the Oregon Repertory singers, A Cappella choir at Grant High School and the choir that sings in "The Nutcracker".



Katherine Westmoreland (16) 3rd Year
David Douglas High School
 Katherine served as co-chair of the successful YouthPass Committee which established free bus passes for all PPS high school students.



Louis Wheatley (16) 1st Year
Lincoln High School
 Favorite quote: "Democracy is not a spectator sport."—Alfonso Aguilar.



Yelena Yaschenko (18) 1st Year
Mt. Hood Community College
 "What is important to me, is seeing teens and children being involved in something ..., so they feel they make a difference, and simply have fun."

Multnomah Youth Commissioners • 2009-2010



Chris Edmonds (17) 2nd Year
Grant High School
 "I want the MYC to continue making plans to raise the trajectory of youth in the Portland/Multnomah area as well as see continued, tangible results of hard work."



Seth Evans (19) 2nd Year
Portland State University
 Seth believes that "...youth contribute a unique perspective on issues...a fresh perspective, untempered by a routine way of doing things."



Manny Garcia (17) 1st Year
Lincoln High School
 Reason for joining the MYC: "I wanted a voice on policy matters and to help my community with real and solvable issues like healthcare and education."



Bianca Gille (17) 2nd Year
Jesuit High School
 Bianca is also involved in singing, drama, Spanish National Honor Society and Student Ambassadors.



Adriana Godinez (17) 1st Year
Reynolds High School
 Adriana believes the greatest contributions youth can make to our community is to get involved in SOMETHING productive, no matter how small.



Sean Hadley (17) 2nd Year
LÉP Charter High School
 Personal quote: "The most important thing for understanding the world is understanding yourself. Meditation is, therefore, really important."

Multnomah Youth Commissioners • 2009-2010



Nay'Chelle Harris (17) 2nd Year

Central Catholic High School

Favorite quote: "The purpose of life is not to be happy - but to matter, to be productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you have lived at all."



Sam Huh (14) 3rd Year

Sam Barlow High School

Favorite saying: "To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice your gift."



Yolanda Jones (15) 1st Year

Grant High School

Yolanda sees the biggest issues facing youth in our community as insufficient education and discrimination.



Huayu Lai (17) 1st Year

Wilson High School

"I am diverse in many ways—culturally, in terms of my history and experiences and my passions and aspirations."



Ashley Long (17) 2nd Year

St. Mary's Academy

Ashley is also involved with Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Providence Child Center and Allen Temple Emergency Aid Center.



Ryan McBee (18) 3rd Year

Franklin High School

Ryan would like to make the world a better place by one day holding elected office and by donating money to charity.

Multnomah Youth Commissioners • 2009-2010



Daisy Quinonez (15) 1st Year

David Douglas High School

Daisy would like the MYC to expand YouthPass and help achieve the grant to open a school clinic on the eastside (of Portland).



Quinn Rohlf (16) 1st Year

Lincoln High School

Quinn believes that (all youth have) something they want to see happen. It's up to them to make that a reality.



Marina Rulevskaya (17) 5th Year

Portland State University

"I hope to use my positive attitude and drive to create and inspire change in how adults view youth voice."



Akos Sarfo-Kantanka (15) 1st Year

Wilson High School

Favorite saying: "Those who stand for nothing, fall for anything."



Rachel Shelley (16) 3rd Year

David Douglas High School

"I am passionate about giving youth a voice in the city/county. I also love to be involved in as much as I can and the MYC...actually makes a difference!"



Lucius Shields (20) 1st Year

Portland State University

Lucius joined the MYC to make a positive difference and wishes for progress towards a more peaceful world.