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Youth in foster care learn leadership skills at Duluth conference *20th annual event connects young people to older mentors*

Young people who have successfully transitioned from foster care to adulthood will kick off a conference created to provide leadership opportunities for those still in foster care. The 20th annual Tomorrow's Leaders Today conference will be held July 29-31 at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

"This conference gives youth the tools to be active leaders in their communities in a meaningful way," said Minnesota Human Services Commissioner Lucinda Jesson. "They have a wealth of experience in the child welfare system and a great deal of interest in improving it. Once they develop the leadership skills they need, they can advocate for themselves and other youth within their communities and at a state or national level."

Among the presenters are participants in the [FosterClub All Star Internship Program](#), which enlists young adults who are no longer in foster care to motivate, educate and empower foster youth as well as raise awareness about foster care generally.

About 175 youth are expected to participate in art projects, group discussions and individual activities, and enjoy a performance by Fond du Lac Nation Drum and Dance.

Previous conference participants have served as mentors; facilitated support groups for younger foster children; and presented their ideas to county workers, state legislators and members of Congress.

Minnesota Department of Human Services, county, and nonprofit agencies serving youth and former foster care youth coordinated the conference.

More information about the conference is available on the [Tomorrow's Leaders Today website](#).