The “5 Cs” of Positive Youth Development

Positive Youth Development builds upon what have become known as the “Five Cs”: Competence, Confidence, Connection, Character, and Caring (Lerner, et al., 2005). Young people who have developed these “Five C's” are considered to be on the developmental path to the Sixth C: Contribution to self, family, community, and the institutions of society (Lerner, et al., 2005).

**Competence**: Positive view of one’s actions in specific areas, including social, academic, cognitive, health, and vocational.

**Confidence**: Internal sense of overall positive self-worth and self-efficacy.

**Connection**: Positive bonds with people and institutions that are reflected in exchanges between the individual and his/her peers, family, school, and community in which both parties contribute to the relationship.

**Character**: Respect for societal and cultural norms, possession of standards for correct behaviors, a sense of right and wrong, and integrity.

**Caring/Compassion**: A sense of empathy and sympathy for others.

For more information on the 4-H Study of PYD please contact the:

Indiana 4-H Youth Development Program
Agricultural Administration Building, Room 214
615 W State Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2053
Phone: 765-494-8422
Fax: 765-496-1152

Purdue University is an equal access/equal opportunity institution.
The Situation

The United States is falling dangerously behind its peers in developing a future workforce of scientists, engineers, and technology experts. To ensure global competitiveness, we must act now to prepare the next generation of science, engineering, and technology (SET) leaders. The 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development recognized this as a critical issue throughout the United States and dedicated an entire section of their survey to the SET initiative. This brochure provides a snapshot of Indiana youth’s reported participation in SET activities in Indiana as well as students’ reported plans for their futures.

National Youth, Indiana Youth, and Indiana 4-H Youth

The 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development is a national, longitudinal study on adolescent development conducted by Dr. Richard Lerner and his colleagues at Tufts University in partnership with and supported by the National 4-H Council. During the six years of the study, 6,120 youth in 41 states were surveyed. In 2008-2009, 218 Indiana youth were surveyed as part of 2,491 youth nationwide in grades 8 through 11.

The two graphs here compare Indiana youth to national youth surveyed. Data indicate that Indiana youth participate in slightly more SET activities than their counterparts nationally. This implies that Indiana teachers, Extension 4-H Youth Educators, and staff members of other youth organizations engage students in more Science, Engineering, and Technology activities than do their national counterparts.

In the graph below, Indiana youth are compared to national youth surveyed. More Indiana youth than national youth plan to take courses in the SET areas after completion of high school. It is promising that Indiana youth plan to participate in post-secondary SET education.

The future academic expectations of Indiana youth are compared below to youth surveyed across the nation. It is encouraging to note that the percentage of Indiana youth aspiring to earn a degree post a high school experience are on par or slightly higher than their peers across the nation.