

'Great thoughts speak only to the thoughtful mind, but great actions speak to all mankind.' - US President Teddy Roosevelt

It is with great pleasure we present the 2008 Youth Gang Prevention Intervention Conference. It will be a chance to collaborate and listen to an impressive line-up of experts give their insights to the Youth Gang Problem affecting all of our counties today.



James C. (Buddy) Howell, Ph.D.

Dr. Howell, Ph.D., worked at the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), in the U.S. Department

of Justice for 21 years, mostly as Director of Research and Program Development. He currently is a Senior Research Associate with the National Youth Gang Center in Tallahassee, FL and a Criminologist, residing in North Carolina. While employed at OJJDP, Buddy co-authored with John Wilson the "Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders," which has been implemented in a number of states and cities.

In addition to numerous journal articles, chapters, and other publications on juvenile justice and youth gangs, Buddy has authored or co-authored four books and his most recent one is titled Preventing and Reducing Juvenile Delinquency: A Comprehensive Framework (2003, Sage Publications). He actively assists state and local agencies in evaluating and improving their juvenile justice systems using the Comprehensive Strategy framework, basic research, and evidence-based program services.

Victor Gonzales

Victor Gonzales has 20 years of experience working with high-risk youth, including 15 years working directly with youth involved in Houston (Texas) area gangs. His work included substance-abuse intervention and various prevention programs. For 6 years, he was a gang-intervention specialist and program manager for the Barrios Unidos Youth Program of the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans, the only state-funded gang-intervention program serving the heavily gang-affected East End. For 5 years he was the team leader and program manager for the Gang Violence Reduction Team, a gang-intervention program of the mayor's Anti-Gang Office. He became director of program services in 2003.



Dr. Randy Blazak

Professor at Portland State University who researches the causes of youth involvement in the hate movement. Dr. Blazak is the chair of the Coalition Against Hate

Crimes and has researched the hate movement since the late 1980s and teaches a class on hate crimes at PSU. Dr. Blazak regularly appears in the local and national media discussing the topic, as well as with student and community groups.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, October 16, 2008

- 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. **Registration/Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. **Welcome/Housekeeping**
- 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. **Gang Dynamics**
- 10:15 - 10:30 a.m. **Break**
- 10:30 - 12:00 p.m. **Community Gang Assessment**
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. **Lunch (provided)**
- 1:00 - 2:15 p.m. **Community Gang Assessment (continued)**
- 2:15 - 2:30 p.m. **Break**
- 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. **Comprehensive Gang Policy Development**

Friday, October 17, 2008

- 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. **Registration/Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. **Hate Groups/Hate Crimes Overview**
- 10:30 - 12:00 a.m. **Community Assessment and Responses to Hate Groups /Hate Crimes**
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. **Lunch (provided)**
- 1:00 - 2:15 p.m. **Local Gang Issues**
- 2:15 - 2:30 p.m. **Break**
- 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. **Community Work Team Meetings**

Yes, I want to participate in the YOUTH GANG PREVENTION INTERVENTION CONFERENCE.

Registration Information: Register by October 8, 2008

Name: _____
Title: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
E-Mail Address: _____

Would you prefer a vegetarian option? Yes No

Send Registration to: Lane County DYS, 2727 MLK Blvd., Eugene OR 97401
ATTN: Youth Gang Conference
Or fax to: 541-682-2425



Need more information?
Call: 541-912-3640



SOUTHERN OREGON JUVENILE DEPARTMENTS
Youth Gang Prevention / Intervention Conference



October 16 -17, 2008
Medford, Oregon
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

In Our Own Backyards

A Conference for Local Educators, Law Enforcement and Public Safety Agencies, Juvenile Justice and Court Professionals, Youth-Serving Organizations, and Interested Community Members of Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath and Lane Counties.

The problem of gangs and other high risk behaviors amongst the youth of Oregon's southern region is growing. These issues require our communities to work together and successfully intervene before these problems become bigger than our resources to respond. While some parts of the Southern region may not have well-established gangs yet, all the risk factors that are typically present with gang-involved youth are here such as youth with substance abuse issues, delinquency, negative peer influence, family poverty, high levels of child abuse and neglect, and the availability of drugs. Gangs attract high risk youth who are vulnerable to recruitment into this serious delinquent behavior. The Southern region is recognized where hate gangs like Aryan groups aggressively recruit high risk juveniles as members. These youth are lured into "belonging" to a group based on a vicious common bond – a bond built on the exploitation of high risk youth who have very few other connections in their lives.

High-risk delinquent youth from ethnic minority communities are also very vulnerable to recruitment by other types of gangs. The attraction of belonging to groups with perceived power is very alluring to these youth who experience cultural estrangement in a predominately Caucasian culture in Oregon. In addition, southern Oregon's proximity to the California boarder creates an easy access to our communities by gang influences from that state. Most often, California gang members who are

less influential in their own communities come to Oregon and, by contrast, are the "toughest group on the street" in our communities.

Community members and service providers have various levels of understanding about the extent of the problem and effective interventions. To ameliorate these problems, the Southern Oregon Juvenile Departments are hosting a community education and mobilization effort through a conference on youth gangs, which will result in a community action plan for each participating county.

The conference will feature several nationally recognized experts in the areas of youth gangs, high risk youth, effective interventions, and community mobilization, as well as local speakers who deal with youth gang issues in their daily work.

Please join us for this important event!

DPSST, CLE, and CEU credit will be available for this conference.

This years conference will take place at:

Medford Armory, 1701 S. Pacific Hwy.
A block of rooms have been reserved at the **Springhill Suites by Marriott** at a cost of \$87 per night until September 23, 2008.

Call 541-842-8080 to reserve your room.