

# YOUTH TO YOUTH:

## Successful Engagement in Strategic Leadership



# MEET THE PRESENTERS



Audra



Mica



Mellie



Michael



Whitney

# YOUTH LEADERS EXPERIENCE



- Leadership Role
- Getting Started
- Challenges
- Benefits
- Advice

# CONSIDER THIS...

- Understand the time commitment. Before committing to serving on a Board, make sure you're able to put in the time and effort expected. Showing you're reliable can help you get a positive reference when applying for jobs, schools, and scholarships.
- Assess scheduling conflicts. Find out how often the Board meets, what time it meets, and how long meetings usually last to make sure they don't generally conflict with your school or work schedule. But be flexible if you can. If you have too many conflicts, it may appear that you are unable to meet the time commitment.

From: <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/>

# CONSIDER THIS...

- **Find out what you will be doing and what is expected of you.** Ask what sort of information people are expected to know? Will your responsibilities include giving presentations, speaking in public, or meeting with government decision makers? Will you be given training before you start serving on the Board? If the Board meets in person, find out what's considered appropriate attire.
- **Discuss compensation.** Some organizations offer bus tokens, carpooling, or travel and meal reimbursements, while some offer to pay members a small stipend. Make sure you know where you stand with your Board on these key issues.

From: <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/>

# CONSIDER THIS...



- **Remember that your input matters.** You were selected to serve on the Board, which means they want and value your contribution. Remind yourself that your voice counts. If you ever become frustrated because you feel like you are not getting “equal time,” keep in mind that although some adults may not understand how to work with youth effectively, they generally mean well.

Your  
— *input* —  
Matters

From: <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/>

# GETTING STARTED

- **Decide what kind of experience you want.** What type or organization or cause do you want to be involved with? Are there arts or sports organizations you would like to work with? Are you interested in organizations that serve youth or people with disabilities? Are there particular political or social causes that interest you? Would you like to represent youth in your community on local and state government Advisory Boards? Try to align your potential Board participation with your educational and career goals.

From: <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/>

# GETTING STARTED

- **Get your foot in the door.** It's important to get involved in the organizations you want to serve and let them know you are interested in leadership opportunities. Although most nonprofit Boards are made up of ten to 20 members, they frequently only have one or two slots open to youth. Advisory Boards tend to be larger and may have more opportunities for youth involvement. If you are already involved with an organization, find someone on staff you have a good relationship with and ask them about serving on the Board. They might be able to put in a good word for you and serve as a valuable resource for your experience both now and in the future.

From: <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/>



# GETTING STARTED



- **Good ideas are good ideas.** Even if you ultimately choose not to serve on a Board or don't get selected, you can still reach out to Board members to talk with them about your ideas and the activities of the organization that interest you. Often organizations offer time for public comment, if this interests you.

**CAKE**  
**IS**   
**ALWAYS**  
**A GOOD**  
**IDEA** 

From: <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/>

# GETTING STARTED

- **Apply to be on a Board.** Some organizations will ask you to fill out an application to serve on a Board. You may also be interviewed by an employee of the organization or other Board members. Go through the application process like you are applying for a job. Remember to always answer questions honestly and with a positive attitude, and don't forget to point out your special skills, qualities, and interests.

# SKILLS

# BENEFITS

For the Young Person

For the Organization

# ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

# ENGAGEMENT GOALS

- **Goal:** a broad statement about a long-term desired outcome.
- **Objective:** a measurable result that will be achieved in a specific timeframe to help accomplish a desired goal.

Goal Statement:

Objective:

Objective:

Objective:

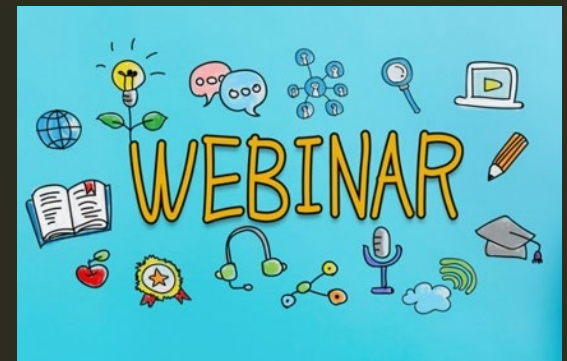
Watch for notice of our upcoming two-part webinar series: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ON BOARDS,  
which is an



## YOUTH TALK

November 15<sup>th</sup> and December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019:

- 6:00 (EDT)
- 5:00pm (CDT)
- 4:00pm (MDT)
- 3:00pm (PDT)





- Melissa Ann “Mellie” Santora: [melissa@azsilc.org](mailto:melissa@azsilc.org) or [mellie@diverseabilityincorporated.org](mailto:mellie@diverseabilityincorporated.org)
- Audra Paletta: [audra@diverseabilityincorporated.org](mailto:audra@diverseabilityincorporated.org)
- Mica Stewart: [mica@diverseabilityincorporated.org](mailto:mica@diverseabilityincorporated.org)



- Whitney Harris: [harris.whitneyd@gmail.com](mailto:harris.whitneyd@gmail.com)



- Michael Lefevor: [michael@usilc.org](mailto:michael@usilc.org)