

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Positive Social Action Conference: a recipe for igniting and developing community engaged students

Student Volunteer Connections' conference aims to mentor and challenge students to become engaged citizens in their community through positive social action.

(Guelph, ON) January 12, 2010 - Students from the University of Guelph and the local community will take the pledge to dive into social action this month. From Friday, January 29th to Sunday, January 31st, student delegates will participate in the 3-day Positive Social Action Conference 2010, in order to motivate their ambitions to better the world they live in. The Student Volunteer Connections' (SVC) largest initiative of the year comes at no financial cost for delegates, allowing for a highly accessible conference regardless of financial background.

The 4th annual Positive Social Action Conference aims to ignite and foster social action found in students through means of innovative teachings, social networking, and hands-on experiences. Students of all ages at all levels of education are all equally encouraged to attend by registering at www.uoguelph.ca/~svc. The theme of the conference is "Relearn. Rethink. React", extracting the meaning that students must dig into the root of today's issues, challenge outdated ways of thinking, discover real solutions, and initiate positive action.

Positive Social Action Conference launches on Friday night with Keynote Marva Wisdom, a community trainer, volunteer expert, political activist, and a graduate in the Masters of Leadership program at the University of Guelph. Following Wisdom's speech, internationally acclaimed Free the Children singer, Louise Kent, will give a live performance of her music that focuses on social change.

On Saturday, January 30, sessions will aim to have delegates relearn and rethink about current issues in today's world. Focusing on three primary subjects; Environmental Sustainability, Poverty, and Health and Wellness; the sessions will cover a variety of views of the subjects by highly engaged experts who are living their passion. Morning speaker highlights include GuluWalk founders Adrian Bradbury & Kieran Hayward, Meal Exchange National Executive Director Dave Kranenburg, and community expert Gayle Valeriotte. In the afternoon, World Adventurist Ray Zahab will share his experience and passions of documented journey as the first person to successfully run across the Sahara Desert and Antarctica. Zahab has spoken across the globe and has been featured on CNN, CBC, TED talks, The Hour, and NBC.

Saturday afternoon will feature skill building workshops that filter energy and ambitions into positive and effective social action at school, in the community, and beyond. Speaker highlights for the afternoon include Guelph Green Party campaign manager, Neil Dubois, Students Offering Support (aka S.O.S.) founder and president, Greg Overholt, and a panel of highly dedicated University of Guelph student leaders. The day finishes off with a Social Dinner with invited guests from the University and community of Guelph.

Sunday, January 31st will begin with President and Vice-Chairman of the University of Guelph, Alastair Summerlee, addressing the delegates before they participate in a morning of community outreach. Delegates will fill a need for various not-for-profit organizations in Guelph to truly partake in social action.

On Sunday Afternoon, the conference will conclude with a special guest appearance, reflection, and a live performance by the band Mr. Something Something. Mr. Something Something is the only Canadian band whose entire performance is operated by the bicycle powered SoundCycle.

“The Conference will be one that gets students up of their feet, engaging in their passions, and starting the year off ready to make a difference in their world.” Jordan Thompson, SVC programme Coordinator.

For further details on SVC or the Positive Social Action Conference, go to www.uoguelph.ca/~svc.

*** 3 ***

For Further Information on the Positive Social Action Conference or on Student Volunteer Connections, Contact:

Jordan Thompson
Programme Coordinator
Student Volunteer Connections

Office: 519.824.4120 x58104 | Mobile: 519.400.2475 | Email: svc@uoguelph.ca

www.uoguelph.ca/~svc | | www.ican.uoguelph.ca