



What Are Students and Professionals Saying About YDA?



“The modules of the Youth Development Academy (YDA) present a logical path to follow with guidelines for every step it takes to create an environment for sustainable, positive youth relationships.”

**-Wanda Hoffman
MU Adult Day Connection
Campfire Youth Programs**

“One of my most important takeaways from our YDA is the reminder to be cognizant of cultural issues in my work with youth and in developing culturally sensitive educational materials and programs...Learning about the environments of the youth we serve and their families will help to ensure programs are relevant.”

**-Jill Sappington, Graduate Teaching Assistant
Career and Technical Education
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteer**

“As a faculty member in a fashion or textiles department, youth development knowledge will be applicable as many programs offer summer boot camps for high school students trying out college life. In a job interview two years ago for a faculty position at a small liberal arts college I was asked if I was comfortable creating such a program. This has stuck in the back of my mind since then, and now after the Youth Development Academy I feel equipped to make a go at it!”

**-Stephanie Link, PhD Student
Rural Sociology/International Development**



“YDA is an excellent way to further understand how to communicate effectively, understand, and connect with youth...By following the criteria mentioned during the Academy, I have a better idea of the necessary skills it takes to successfully interact with youth.”

**-Sarah Huber, Graduate Student
Parks, Recreation and Tourism &
CAFNR Trap Academy**

“YDA was a great opportunity to begin to dive deep into positive youth development...It brings information that everyone should be doing to the surface and causes all participants to see the gaps within their organization.”

**-Tevin Uthlaut, Graduate Student
Agricultural Education
4-H Youth Program Assistant,
Howard County**



“Integrating concepts of positive youth development within courses designed to prepare those working with youth and children will not only be possible for our students and faculty, but such ideas will

be greatly welcomed, especially considering topics such as program planning for results, youth and adult partnerships, experiential learning, and engaging volunteers.”

**-Greg Morrow, PhD Student
Rural Sociology/International Development
Chief Operating Officer, Future Leadership Foundation**