

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

ContraCostaTimes.com

Youth summit aims to educate and motivate

By Rick Radin
Contra Costa Times

Posted: 04/06/2011 06:24:19 PM PDT

Updated: 04/06/2011 06:43:10 PM PDT

Supervisor Federal Glover, of Pittsburg, credits the Boys & Girls Club and other community support in his hometown for helping him stay on track toward college and a career when he was a kid.

He now says that experience inspired him to create the Contra Costa Youth Summit, an annual event for sixth- through 12th-graders to learn about jobs and training and coping with the temptations and the challenges of being a teenager.

"The Boys & Girls Club was my safe haven that allowed me to stand clear of some of the things that were taking place," Glover said. "The biggest thing is to allow their voices to be heard, to understand the issues they are dealing with."

The free event begins with sessions on such subjects as CPR training; how to start a business; "Banking on Your Future," a basic financial literacy seminar; public speaking; and computer skills training.

After lunch, the program turns to fun, with three-on-three basketball, a hip-hop dance class, guitar lessons and other activities.

Kids who attend the event will receive a free T-shirt, water bottle and a summer bus pass from Tri-Delta Transit.

Comedian Michael Pritchard, a former juvenile counselor in San Francisco and a youth guidance consultant, will be the keynote speaker.

During the morning session, participants will have a chance to question a panel of school board and City Council members.

Last year, participants asked about cutbacks in

recreation departments, school uniforms, city policies on smoking and teen access to alcohol, said Paul Adler, an aide to Glover who is coordinating the event.

Glover started the summit for Pittsburg youths in the 1990s when he was the city's mayor. He expanded it to include youths from the entire county in 2002 after he was elected to the board of supervisors.

Recent summits have drawn 700 to 800 participants, Glover said.

"We have promoted it mostly to East County, but we've opened it up to kids from all over," he said.

For details, call 925-427-8138.

Contact Rick Radin at 925-779-7166.

If YOU GO

What: Contra Costa County Youth Summit 2011

When: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 16

Where: Los Medanos College, 2700 Leland Road, Pittsburg

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