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# NorthStar Youth Worker Fellowship Application – 2015-16

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The purpose of the NorthStar Youth Worker Fellowship is to engage a cohort of experienced youth work practitioners in exploration, reflection, and study to generate more wisdom, language, and leadership in the field of youth work in Minnesota. Fellows in the 2015-16 cohort **will examine the opportunities and challenges facing youth work as we move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Fellows will identify core values, key figures and fundamental documents from the past and present that should inform future youth work practice in Minnesota.** Each of the fellows will spend the year reviewing relevant research and writings; tapping the local wisdom of their professional network; engaging in conversation with local and national leaders in the field; and writing a position paper that will inform systems development and field advancement in Minnesota.

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## THEME — Looking Back to Move Forward

*“Study the past if you would define the future.”* Confucius

*“[This book] is written in the belief that only as we come to terms with our past and our present is there a future for the oldest and youngest among us...”* Margaret Mead

In the late 1960's and early 1970's Margaret Mead and Gisela Konopka both wrote about the idea of commitment. Konopka framed commitment in her paper *Requirements for Healthy Development of Adolescent Youth* as “the emotional, intellectual, and sometimes physical reach for other people as well as ideas, ideologies, causes and work choices.” Mead, in her book *Culture and Commitment*, articulated the need to “create new models for adults who can teach their children not what to learn, but how to learn and not what they should be committed to, but the value of commitment.”

Youth work plays a unique role in supporting young people in this process. What new models of youth work are needed in the 21st century? What core values, key figures and fundamental documents from the past and present should be used to provide a solid foundation and inform youth work practice in Minnesota in the 21st century? What opportunities and/or challenges in youth work policy or practice do you feel are unique to the 21st century? This is your chance to help answer these important questions.

Each Fellow will write a position paper advocating for the inclusion of the core value or values, key figure or fundamental document from the past or present that they feel should be used to inform future youth work practice in Minnesota. Fellows will engage in secondary research, surveys, focus groups, interviews, and site visits to inform their position, and tap into their professional networks as part of the process.

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## APPLICATION

### I. Personal Information — please complete and attach a current resume

Last Name:

First Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Agency:

Title:

Preferred Telephone: (      )

E-mail:

### II. Application Questions — please answer the following questions on separate sheet(s) of paper. (Maximum 1,000 words total)

1. Why are you interested in being part of the NorthStar Fellowship? What are your personal and professional goals that relate to the Fellowship?
2. Take a look at current youth work practice with a critical eye. Identify one practice, approach, value and/or system that should be carried into the future or one that should be left behind? Why?
3. What opportunities and/or challenges in youth work policy or practice do you feel could be unique to the 21st century?
4. How will you use your professional networks and other methods of data collection to inform the development of your position paper?

### III. Applicant/Supervisor Memorandum of Understanding — Please initial and sign

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I am accepted as a Fellow that I am required to attend meetings consistently and spend significant time reading, writing, and meeting in the periods between the monthly Fellowship meetings. I am required to a day-long Orientation Event on September 15, 2015; produce a final position paper; and participate in a public presentation of my paper in the summer, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read the Fellowship Overview and agree to the Fellowship requirements.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Applicant Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Supervisor Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

#### **IV. Submitting Your Application**

**Please submit:**

- Completed application form, including your answers to the Application Questions and the Applicant/Supervisor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by you and your supervisor
- Current resume

**Applications must be received by June 1, 2015. Please submit them by email to:**

Email: **cdc@augsborg.edu**

If you have questions or would like more information on the NorthStar Fellowship, please contact: Sheila Oehrlein at **sheila.oehrlein@state.mn.us** (651) 582-8448