



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, young people under age 25 comprise 33% of New York State's population, and as they represent tomorrow's leaders, parents and entrepreneurs, they must be equipped with the skills, values and competencies to be part of a vital workforce upon which this State's future growth and success depend; and

Whereas, evidence from research supports positive youth development principles and strategies for maximizing the strengths and potential of today's youth and for improving health, education and other outcomes; and

Whereas, there is a growing need to move away from traditional, risk-reduction and categorical approaches and to move toward cross-system partnering and positive youth development approaches; and

Whereas, the positive youth development approach is "asset" focused: viewing youth as promising resources to be understood and developed rather than problems to be fixed; and

Whereas, the positive youth development approach provides a framework to prevent unhealthy, risky behaviors and improve the health and well-being of all youth regardless of race, ethnicity and status in the community, including those with special needs; and

Whereas, New York has established a Youth Development Team with a vision for "families, schools and communities to partner to support the development of healthy, capable and caring youth," and has made great strides in advancing positive youth development as evidenced by creating statewide initiatives such as Assets Coming Together (ACT) for Youth; and

Whereas, all New Yorkers share a responsibility to love, value, nurture, listen to and encourage our youth, and it is therefore fitting to support the goals of this observance which seeks to ensure the future of our youth through initiatives that promote their development into productive, healthy citizens who will contribute in positive ways to society;

Now, Therefore, I, Eliot Spitzer, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2007 as

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT DAY

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-fifth day of April in the year two thousand seven.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor