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### **Camp Fire USA Youth Represented at National Youth Education Summit**

(Kansas City, Missouri) Five high school youth represented Camp Fire USA at the U.S. Department of Education *Voices in Action: National Youth Summit* in Washington, D.C., which was held at the end of February. The purpose of the summit was to discuss how to meet President Obama's goal of leading the world in college completion by 2020. The summit included dialogue on key education issues—effective teaching, college information gaps, parental involvement, community mentors, and school climate and discipline.

The Camp Fire USA representatives included four youth from the National Youth Advisory Cabinet—Lauren Lampe (Mohnton, Pa.), Kayla Hensley (Arroyo Grande, Calif.), Owen Ballard (Des Moines, Iowa), and Justin Berl (Portland, Oreg.). In addition, Antonio Harrison (Bowie, Md.) served as a local representative of Camp Fire.

The daylong event, which was held at Howard University, included workshops and discussions on key education issues that had been raised during this year's national youth listening tour. The Summit integrated real-time keypad voting into the prioritization of the five themes from the listening sessions. The most traction was found around the community topics. The keypad voting results are on the Department of Education's Facebook page, at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/ED-Youth-Voices/136786839692361?ref=ts>. The following statements received the highest votes:

- **School**
  - There is a desire for more challenging classes.
  - More counselors are needed at schools.
  - It is hard to find information about college application and the funding process.
- **Family**
  - A key motivation for going to college is to become a role model for siblings and peers.
  - Family instability affects school participation.
- **Community**
  - High school and college partnerships could increase participation in college.
  - Throughout high school, stable relationships with mentoring adults are important for success.

- Community youth programs need to provide youth with more information about what is available.

Other key messages from the summit included:

- Grassroots advocacy at the local and state levels is key in making an impact on education legislation.
- Youth voice is critical to making a difference in education.
- Youth organizations such as Camp Fire USA can supplement the learning that is lacking in the school system.
- There are several examples of youth programs in support of education that could be modeled in other communities.

For more information about the summit, go to <http://www.ed.gov/college-completion/youth-summit>. For more information about Camp Fire USA's participation in the summit, contact DD Gass, at [dd.gass@campfireusa.org](mailto:dd.gass@campfireusa.org) or 816-285-2004.

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Camp Fire USA, headquartered in Kansas City, Mo., provides inclusive, coeducational programs in hundreds of communities throughout the United States. Founded in 1910, Camp Fire offers asset-based programs for children, youth, and their families. Camp Fire USA provides beyond classroom programs; camps and outdoor education where kids explore and learn respect for the environment; inspire youth to contribute to their communities through service projects; and connect youth and their families together in small groups. Last year Camp Fire USA provided nearly 30 million program hours to more than 250,000 youth. For more information, visit [www.campfireusa.org](http://www.campfireusa.org).