

## Meet the Members of the 2009-2010 Youth Advisory Committee



**Connor**, Chair of the Youth Advisory Committee, is a senior from **Randolph County**. He serves as President of the Beta Club, Chairman of Teenage Republicans, Vice-President of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Vice-President of Science Club and Business Manager of the school yearbook. In addition, he attended the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership seminar, where he still volunteers. Last year, Connor successfully lobbied his Board of Education to decline a proposed change in school grade point average calculation.

**Quote:** "In the words of Elbert Hubbard, 'A little more persistence, a little more effort, and what seemed hopeless failure may turn to glorious success.' Youth of today must hold true to this value, no matter the circumstance, and remember that their persistence and effort does not go unnoticed. I am proud to serve as Chairman of a committee that promotes this value."



**Nick** is a senior from **Durham County** serving his third term on the Youth Advisory Committee. He enjoys advocating for better youth representation on key issues immediately affecting students. An advocate for environmental stewardship, Nick started the first recycling committee at his previous middle school and is actively engaged in related issues within his current school community. He was also responsible for producing the school's first video yearbook, published on DVD. Nicholas enjoys reading, cycling, and participating in automotive activities in his spare time.

**Quote:** "Our generation will guide us into the future, and shaping good leaders today will pay dividends tomorrow."



**Tawanna** is a junior from **Pitt County**. She serves as president of her school's FCCLA and her county's youth council. She is an active participant in Teen Court, FBLA, and Bible Club. She is also committed to working with children and spends time tutoring at the local Boys and Girls Club, as well as volunteering at the local elementary school. Tawanna looks forward to expanding her community work this year as a member of the Youth Advisory Committee.

**Quote:** "Leadership and responsibility are the strongest character traits for a person to possess, and we must exercise these every day."



**Lindsay** is a senior in **New Hanover County**. She is Student Body president and serves as the Key Club treasurer. She enjoys participating in Teen Court, working with her church, and volunteering at a summer art camp for underprivileged children. She is currently working on establishing a website for pregnant women to receive information on whether medications they are taking are safe for their unborn babies. Lindsay is also involved with March of Dimes, Relay for Life, and Stroll-A-Thon.

**Quote:** "Civic involvement is an essential part of having a successful community. Even a small contribution can make a big difference."



**Gabriela** is a junior from Wake County serving her first term on the Youth Advisory Committee. Her interests are education, music, children, medicine, and community service. She is currently a member of Heath Occupation Students Association and is secretary of Jovenes Lideres en Accion. She is a coordinator for El Coro Celestial Church Choir and is a member of the El Gran Volcan Church Youth Group. She hopes to one day become a pediatrician.

**Quote:** "To be a leader is not about being in charge of something. It is about being dedicated, responsible, creative, open-minded, and willing to serve others. I am excited to be a part of the Youth Advisory Committee so that I can do exactly that—dedicate myself to making a difference in my community."

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**Louisa** is a senior from **Orange County** serving her first term on the Youth Advisory Committee. She is very involved in her community and recently participated in the Hidden Voices Project, where she assisted in the documentation and representation of local black history; the project is currently displayed at UNC-Chapel Hill. Louisa also volunteers at the Rehab Center, Carnivore Preservation Trust, the Thrift Shop, and at the local middle and elementary schools. She participated in the Health Professions Recruitment and Exposure Program (HPREP) at UNC's School of Medicine, a program for recruiting minorities to engage in medical professions.

**Quote:** "As a responsible citizen, I do all I can to make my community and city a better place to live for me and the people who live around me."



**Kate** is a senior from **Martin County** serving her second term on the Youth Advisory Committee. She is President of the National Honors Society and serves on the Key Club Board of Directors at her high school. Last year, Kate was the director of an 8 week after school tutoring program where 15 at-risk elementary school kids received one-on-one help from trained high school tutors. She spent last summer studying social science at North Carolina Governors School West. She also spent last fall volunteering in the 2008 Election before becoming a Get out the Vote Assistant.

**Quote:** "As young people, it is our job to understand and have an impact on the everyday decisions affecting our lives. Participation in local government and playing an active role in our community is one way to ensure that we begin being the voice of America today".



**Clay** is a junior from **Gaston County** who is serving his second year on the Youth Advisory Committee. He plays an active role in his school, currently serving as Student Body Vice President and as a member of the Technology Students Association, Beta Club, and JETS Math. He is the captain of his high school swim team and runs cross-country. This summer he became a certified CPR/First Aid Instructor and is currently the Red Cross Youth Group Head of Programs. Additionally, he is his school's representative on Gastonia's Mayor's Youth Leadership Council.

**Quote:** "In the words of Robert F. Kennedy, 'Some people see things as they are and say *why*, I look at things that never were and say *why not*.'"



**John** is a sophomore in **Mecklenburg County**. He is serving his first term as a Youth Advisory Committee member and is very involved in the community and at school. He serves on the Executive Board for his school's Student Government and is also an avid member of the debate team. He is also the Amenities Coordinator for his community's Habitat for Humanity Youth United Charter and does almost 100 volunteer hours a year. John loves playing golf and soccer and is an active member in Boy scouts.

**Quote:** "Helping out the community gives me a great feeling of pride and self-accomplishment."



**Taylor**, a junior from **Cherokee County**, is passionate about community service and volunteers regularly with organizations such as Meals on Wheels and Hayesville House. She is an active member in the Interact Club, Beta Club, and the Governor's Learn and Earn program. Over the past two years, Taylor was selected to attend the National Youth Leaders Conference, Future Leaders in Health Care Conference, Young Women's Political Leadership Retreat, Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute, and NC State Textile Camp. She is also an avid athlete who was recently awarded "Best Defensive Player" in soccer. Affiliated with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Taylor is passionate about being a voice for the youth of her region.

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**Adrian** is a sophomore from Wilson county serving his first term on the Youth Advisory Committee. He is very involved in advocating for Latino issues and is a member of "Jovenes Latins en Accion". Adrian is a varsity soccer player and enjoys coaching young children in soccer and baseball. He also serves as a mentor, helping youth cope with stress, social problems, and educational problems.

**Quote:** "We come like water and like wind we go. Time doesn't stop. Neither should you. Take a step now towards solving a problem."



**Chelsea** is a senior in **Cabarrus County** who serves as the Vice Chair of the Youth Advisory Committee. She loves the opportunity she has had to make a difference in her state through her work with the YAC. She has served on her school's Student Council for 4 years and is the current Student Body President. Chelsea is very involved at school, serving as a member of the Interact Club, Bible Club, and Theatre Guild. She has served on the City of Concord Youth Council for 3 years and is also an active Keystone Member. Chelsea enjoys working with peers and younger kids, as well as helping spread the importance of community service.

**Quote:** "It only takes one candle to light up the darkness."



**Adia** is a sophomore in **Cumberland County** serving her first term on the Youth Advisory Committee. She is very active at school and in her community. She is an active member of Teen Democrats and started "Teens for Obama" in Rocky Mount, NC. She is active in the political process and volunteered for President Obama's campaign by canvassing, making phone calls, distributing flyers, etc. Adia is enrolled in the School of Global Studies, serves as co-captain of JV Cheer, and is a member of RUSH.

**Quote:** "Change your thoughts and you can change your world"



**Adam** is a sophomore from **Transylvania County** who is serving his first term on the Youth Advisory Committee. He is president of his sophomore class and serves on his school's student council. He is a member of HOSA and served as a page in the North Carolina House of Representatives. Adam is active in his church and works at WGCR, a local Christian radio station. He enjoys politics, sports, reading, and is looking forward to expanding his horizons by serving on the Youth Advisory Committee.

**Quote:** "The youth of America have a chance to make the biggest and longest impact on society of any group in the world. I am excited to be a part of that difference by serving on the Youth Advisory Council."



**Kelly** a senior from **Dare County**. She enjoys giving back to her community in many ways, but is most interested in government participation. Before moving to North Carolina, Kelly was Vice-Chairman of the Virginia Teenage Republicans. She has assisted on many local and national campaigns, from canvassing, phone banking, and organizing rallies to assisting in fundraisers for candidates. Currently, Kelly serves on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, providing a youth's outlook on how to prevent and reform juvenile crimes. Kelly was also selected to serve in her school's "PEER" program, where she helps fellow students with any physical, emotional, social, or educational problems they may be having.



**Monserrat** is a Senior in **Wake County**. She is extremely active in her community and has worked with El Pueblo Inc. for 5 years. She is a facilitator with the No Fumo Youth Program and participates in the Youth Fellowship Program and Sexual Reproduction Program. Monserrat assisted in the founding of the first Latino club at her high school and dedicates much of her time to advocating for immigrant rights. Her current focus is lobbying support for the DREAM Act.

**Quote:** "Involvement in the community demonstrates that one has to understand what is not working and then take action. Like César Estrada Chávez said, 'Talk is cheap...It is the way we organize and use our lives everyday that tells what we believe in.'"

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**James** is a junior from **Gaston County**. He is an Eagle Scout and is active in his school and community. He is a member of the Beta Club, Future Business Leaders of America, the cross country team, tennis team, and serves on the Principal's Advisory Council. He also serves on Representative Sue Myrick's Youth Advisory Council and has been a Page in the North Carolina House of Representatives. He is a founder and director of "Aces for Autism", a free tennis clinic for children with autism.

**Quote:** "If the youth can become civically involved in their communities, I feel as though we can accomplish and make a bigger impact than anyone realizes, even ourselves."



**Braxton** is a freshman from **Guilford County** who is serving his first term on the **Youth Advisory Committee**. He is very active in his school and community. In middle school, Braxton assisted with the creation and development of the school's morning news show. He also served on the school's student council. In the community, Braxton volunteers during the summer as a Safety Town instructor.

**Quote:** "Civic education is necessary because government is necessary—students must learn about how the government works so that they can be active participants in bringing about change."



**Leah** is a senior from **Rockingham County** with a passion for acting, dancing, and competitive oratory. Currently serving her first term, Leah joined the Youth Advisory Committee to follow her calling to be a good steward of her community. She is excited to use the YAC as a platform to make a positive difference and looks forward to encouraging other youth to meet the challenges we face in our world.

**Quote:** "I want to take life by the horns, stand apart from the indifferent crowd and get involved in finding solutions to make my community a more gracious and prosperous place."



**Rose** is a junior from **Clay County**. She is a member of her school's marching band, serving as drum line section leader this year, and is a student organizer of the Envirothon team. She also helped found a high school chapter of Jr. Civitans for which she is now vice president. Rose is active in Girl Scouts and 4-H and is a musician in her church. She volunteers for a number of causes in the community, including Communities In Schools, the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition and Kids Voting.

**Quote:** "From an early age I learned it just takes one person to make a difference; even the smallest tasks are important to someone."



**Prashanth** is a senior from **Wake County**. An International Baccalaureate student and marshal, he is a member of his school's National Honor Society and Red Cross Club, as well as Speech and Debate, Science Olympiad, Economics Challenge, Model United Nations and Science Bowl teams. He also serves as captain of the school's Brain Game and Quiz Bowl teams. He is a member of the Raleigh Youth Council and was elected Sophomore class president at his school. This past summer, he served as a Governor's page and a DC Congressional Seminar attendee, getting to meet with politicians such as Richard Burr, Kay Hagan, and Ron Paul. He is a regular volunteer at the North Carolina Museum of Art. In his spare time, he enjoys playing flute, running, reading, and making music.

**Quote:** "It is the young have the most time to create a difference."



**Will** is a senior from **Gaston County**. He is a member of the Interact Club, YMCA Youth and Government Club, and a member of the Quiz Bowl team. He also runs Cross Country and plays tennis and basketball for his high school. Will has served as a House and a Senate page for the General Assembly and is a member of the Teens Changing Gaston County committee. He is an active Boy Scout and is currently working toward achieving Eagle Scout rank.

**Quote:** "Involvement in civic matters is key to being an informed citizen; we must help shape the decisions that affect us every day."