Conference Highlights

The 10th and final Models for Change Annual Working Conference was a fitting celebration of the Models for Change initiative and its many successes. Nearly 450 people, representing 46 states, attended sessions from December 13-15th, 2015 at the JW Marriott in Washington, DC.

The conference included four keynote addresses, three plenary panels, ten breakout workshops, five deep-dive sessions, and a town hall forum. We also named new Champions for Change.

Town Hall Forum

The Town Hall Forum on Addressing Key Issues in the Fourth Wave of Reform was an exciting opportunity to discuss the potential threats to hard-won reform successes. More than 250 people debated the top ten threats to reform and the best strategy for protecting the future of the Fourth Wave of reform (74% said strengthening places where reform is weak or vulnerable). The overwhelming majority agreed that threat identification and mitigation should be incorporated into an overall reform strategy to ensure its long-term success.

The full Town Hall Forum results are available in the attached report.

Keynote Speakers

Conference keynote speakers included: Vanita Gupta, head of the United State Department of Justice Civil Rights Division; Glenn E. Martin, Founder and President, JustLeadershipUSA; and Robert Listenbee, Administrator of the US Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
Champions for Change

We recognized four new Champions for Change at the conference and extended the honor to a group of long-time champions, the National Resource Bank who have provided technical assistance and bridges to important national organizations.

The new Champions are:

- Jason Szanyi, Children’s Law and Policy Center – Next Generation Champion for Change
- Mayor Michael Nutter, City of Philadelphia – Champion for Change in Local Leadership
- Lisa Bjergaard, North Dakota Division of Juvenile Services – Champion for Change in State Leadership
- John Chapman, Connecticut – The Lucy Louisa Flower Champion for Change Award (posthumously presented)

Bios for each winner and their video introductions are on the Models for Change website:
http://www.modelsforchange.net/newsroom/listing.html?tags=Champions+for+Change

Conference Resources

Many new published resources were released and distributed at the conference, including:

- Juvenile Justice in a Developmental Framework – http://modelsforchange.net/publications/787
- The Supreme Court and the Transformation of Juvenile Sentencing – http://modelsforchange.net/publications/778
- Lessons from Five Years of Accelerating Change – http://modelsforchange.net/publications/843

All conference resources are available for download from the Models for Change website:
http://modelsforchange.net/publications/listing.html?tags=Annual+conference

More conference photos are available online at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/90576236@N02/with/23189539434/

Next Steps

While the Models for Change initiative is coming to an end, we hope that the Models for Change community can remain connected. One critical component of our success together was sharing information and resources among participants at the local, state level and national level. The Resource Center Partners are continuing their work and the Models for Change website will remain a valuable resource. These resources and the spirit of collaboration we created will go a long way toward preserving our successes, mitigating threats to reform and advancing the field of juvenile justice.


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