

M A K E A
DIFFERENCE
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in ...your school, your community
your region, your future

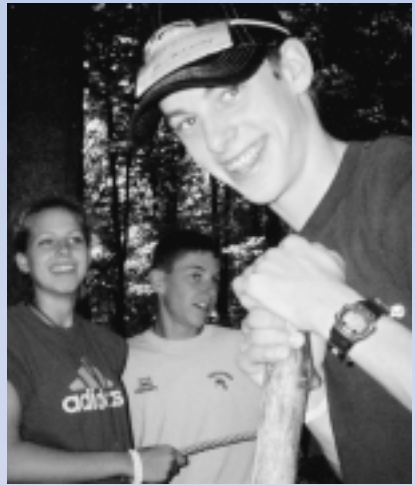
June 13-16, 2002

Pennsylvania College of Technology

Williamsport, PA

What is “Make a Difference”?

Are you concerned about issues facing your school and your neighborhood? Do you find yourself thinking about violence, prejudice and discrimination, drug and alcohol abuse, or teen pregnancy? Have you ever wondered how you as a young person could join with others to improve your neighborhood? Taking an active role in addressing important issues today will help you maximize your personal potential as a contributing member of your school and your community. Make a Difference is an annual youth leadership conference for high school sophomores and juniors that aims to provide you with the invaluable skills and knowledge that will equip you to truly “make a difference” in 2002.



“This conference made such an impact on who I am as a person and on my life. I’ve heard people talk about life altering experiences you will have ... Make a Difference will definitely be under that category...I want teenagers for years to come to have the opportunity that I had. I want them to feel like they can make a difference.”

— Muncy High School



A Great Opportunity That's Lots of Fun

The Make a Difference Leadership Conference is in its fifth year. It was created by and is made possible through the Central Pennsylvania Forum for the Future. All high school sophomores and juniors in the Central Pennsylvania region are invited to apply. You could be one of over 200 students representing more than 45 schools to come together on Pennsylvania College of Technology's campus this year. There is no cost for the program. All costs are covered by financial contributions from individuals, organizations, and businesses throughout the region. In a format that ensures that you will meet new friends and have a great time, you will learn a tremendous amount about yourself, your community, and how you can support the future welfare of Pennsylvania's Heartland.

"I learned that taking control and being a leader is harder than just standing up and voicing a personal opinion. In order to be a leader, a person must understand the opinions and ideas of everyone. A leader must also be able to take these ideas and put them into action."

— Central Columbia High School

At Make a Difference 2002 You Will:

- Collaborate with 40 college-age "Near-Peers" from the area.
- Work with students who have similar interests and concerns.
- Successfully complete a creative group project with the help of adult professionals addressing a specific issue that you care about.
- Learn:
 - Effective communication
 - About setting boundaries
 - Group facilitation
 - Team leadership skills
 - Critical thinking and evaluation
 - About recognizing and capitalizing on diversity
 - How to define and practice ethics and integrity
 - Cooperation through active participation
- Celebrate your achievements via a fun-filled team fair and closing ceremony.

"... I learned much about leadership, teamwork, and cooperation... This program is a great opportunity for students like myself to learn how to better their communities."

— Newport High School

How Much Does it Cost?

The conference is FREE. That's right — there is no cost for you to attend. All expenses are covered by financial contributions from businesses, organizations, and individuals throughout Pennsylvania's Heartland.



How the Program Works

"Make a Difference 2002" can become a reality for you. Sophomores and juniors from Central Pennsylvania's 11 counties (Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Snyder, and Union) are eligible. The application form attached to this brochure must be postmarked by **April 30**. You will be asked to identify problems and issues in your school and community. This information will be used to tailor the teamwork portion of the conference and to address the topics that are important to you. You and

group members who share the same concerns will work to develop solutions, and then present the solutions in the form of a project display to be presented at a team fair. Near-Peers and resource professionals will help you along the way. Addressing real-life issues will give you the opportunity to participate in activities such as:

- ▼ Creating and governing organizations
- ▼ Identifying available resources
- ▼ Goal setting and project planning
- ▼ Tapping the power of local government
- ▼ Generating capital and other resources
- ▼ Measuring progress and success



SAMPLE PROGRAM CONTENT

Thursday, June 13

- Registration
- Meet your teams and facilitators
- Icebreaker — high energy and lots of fun
- Team-building exercise — creative and challenging

Friday, June 14

- Energized Team Building Activities
- How-to Workshops — the A to Z of how to get things done
- Picnic and Lawn Party
- Improvisational Leadership Theater — totally unique
- Dance — hangout time

Saturday, June 15

- Focus Groups — training and practice
- Experiential Training
- Creative Team Fair
- Open Mike — A chance to share talents (from stupid human tricks to story-telling, from singing to playing instruments)

Sunday, June 16

- Plan of Action — you and your team making commitments to make a difference
- Closing Ceremony — a celebration of individual and team accomplishments

Submission Deadline: April 30, 2002 (see back for more info)
Part One: Application

Last name	First name	Middle initial
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 Name to appear on name badge

Date of birth (month/day/year)	Age	Gender (M/F)
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 Home address (number and street or box no.)

City	State	Zip code
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 Home phone

Mother's/guardian's last name	First name
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Daytime phone	Home phone
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Father's/guardian's last name	First name
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Daytime phone	Home phone
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Applicant's current grade (circle one)	10	11
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 School name

Part Two

I. Community Interests — Let us know what you care about, and how you've helped your school or community. Please attach a separate sheet, if necessary.

Clubs, Groups, Organizations	Length of Time	What I Did

II. From my participation in Make a Difference 2002, I expect to learn the following, and I hope to contribute the following:



"This was one of the best experiences of my life, and I was glad that I had the opportunity to attend. I made many new friends and was amazed by the ability people had to come together with their different views and opinions and be able to develop solutions to common problems that we all face in our communities.

— Lewisburg Area High School

III. What else would you like us to know about you?

IV. Optional: You are encouraged to submit up to two letters of support from any clubs, organizations, community groups, family, or friends.

V. Optional: Please provide the names and addresses of other students, not necessarily from your high school, who might benefit from and add to Make a Difference 2002.

Name	Address	High School
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I certify that the information provided is true and correct. If selected to attend Make a Difference 2002, I agree to complete the pre-conference assignments and participate in the conference, June 13-16, 2002.

Signature of applicant

I certify that the information provided above is true and correct and give the above-named student my permission to attend Make a Difference 2002, June 13-16, 2002.

Signature of parent/guardian

Send completed form to:
 Central Pennsylvania
 Forum for the Future
 c/o SEDA-Council of Governments
 RR#1, Box 372
 Lewisburg, PA 17837
 Fax: (570) 524-9190
www.forum4future.org



How to Apply

1. Complete the attached application form. Online application available — see website info.
2. Mail it and all other attachments to the address listed at the end of the form.
3. A selection committee will review your application; you will be notified in early May regarding your participation in the conference.
4. If accepted, you will be asked to complete an emergency health form, a medical treatment authorization form, and a release form signed by your parent(s) or guardian(s), all of which will be provided to you in a follow-up mailing.
5. If you choose to attend the conference, you will be asked to supply a \$25 refundable deposit that will reserve your place. The \$25 commitment deposit will be returned to participants within 10 days of the conference end.
6. All dietary or special needs requirements are requested upon notification of acceptance into the conference. Every effort will be made to ensure appropriate accommodations.
7. Remember to get your application in as early as possible and postmarked no later than **April 30**.

**To learn more about
Make a Difference,
please contact:**

Central Pennsylvania Forum
for the Future
c/o SEDA-Council of
Governments
RR #1, Box 372
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Phone: (570)-524-4491
www.forum4future.org

Central Pennsylvania Forum for the Future Supporting Organizations:

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
Bucknell University
Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit
Geisinger Health System Foundation
Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania
Lycoming College
M&T Bank
PPL Electric Utilities
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Penn State
PenTeleData
Restek Corporation
SEDA-Council of Governments
SunBank
Susquehanna University
Verizon

You Can Earn a Scholarship

Bloomsburg University is offering 10 individual scholarships to students who participate in *Make a Difference*, who apply and are accepted for admission, and who meet the criteria outlined in the Presidential Leadership Award.

Bucknell University will consider preferential financial aid packages or enhanced grant amounts to students who attend *Make a Difference*, who apply and are admitted to Bucknell, and who meet the requirements for financial aid eligibility.

Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania is offering ten individual scholarships of \$1,000 each to students who participate in *Make a Difference*, who apply and are accepted for admission, and meet the criteria for a Freshman Year Alumni Grant.

Pennsylvania College of Technology is offering five individual scholarships of \$1,000 each to students who participate in the *Make a Difference 2002* conference and who apply and are accepted for admission within two years. The College will award up to 10 awards annually for new and continuing students, providing academic and GPA progress is maintained. The Penn College Foundation scholarship committee will make final decisions for all annual awards.

The conference is funded in part by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

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