



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

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Health and Human Service Conference marks 32nd year
Keynote address: Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity

“We shape our self to fit this world and by the world are shaped again.” These are the words of poet, author and lecturer David Whyte, who will be the keynote speaker at the 32nd annual St. Louis County Health and Human Service Conference at the DECC in Duluth. The conference, which uses those same words as its theme this year, will be held October 9 and 10 beginning at 8:30 a.m. each day. It typically draws more than 2,000 participants who work in the public and private sector in the fields of health and human services.

Whyte has authored seven books of poetry and three of prose. As a poet, he has explored three normally mutually exclusive areas: the literary world, the worlds of philosophical enquiry, and the world of vocation—work and organizational leadership. His keynote address is titled Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity.

The two-day conference offers more than 115 workshops, 11 institutes and 150 exhibits. The workshops cover a range of topics, including combatting human trafficking, the role of social media in social work, and supporting families in which one or both parents suffer from mental health and/or chemical dependency issues.

The pre-registration deadline is this Friday, October 3. Walk-in registration is available on both days of the conference. The registration fee is \$50. For students and seniors age 62 and older, the fee is \$40.

The St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference is the second largest in the state for health and human services professionals, offering valuable opportunities for networking, sharing of innovative ideas and strengthening services provided. In addition to St. Louis County, which sponsors the annual conference, more than 60 community organizations contribute to the

conference's success as co-sponsors.

For more information about the St. Louis County Health and Human Service Conference or to view the conference catalog, visit www.stlouiscountymn.gov/hhsconference

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