



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

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***Race, Identity and Meaning in the 21st Century* is theme of 31st annual conference**

A pioneering artist, spoken word performer and filmmaker, Kip Fulbeck will serve as keynote speaker at the 31st annual St. Louis County Health and Human Service Conference at the DECC in Duluth. The conference, themed *Race, Identity and Meaning in the 21st Century*, will be held October 17 and 18 beginning at 8:00 a.m. each day. It typically draws 2,000 + participants who work in the public and private sector in the fields of health and human services.

Fulbeck is the creator of the Hapa Project, designed to give voice to multiracial people and previously ignored ethnic groups. He has been featured on CNN, MTV, The Today Show and PBS, and has performed and exhibited throughout the U.S. and more than 20 countries. He is the author of several books including *Mixed: Portraits of Multiracial Kids, Part Asian* and *100% Hapa*. He also has directed a dozen short films. Fulbeck teaches as a professor of art at the University of California, Santa Barbara. In recognition for his work promoting multiracial awareness, he was awarded the inaugural Loving Prize at the 2009 Mixed Roots Film & Literary Festival and also named a Cultural Pioneer at Harvard University.

The two-day conference offers 115 workshops, 11 institutes and 150 exhibits. It is the second largest conference in the state for health and human services professionals, offering opportunity for networking, sharing of innovative ideas and strengthening services provided. In addition to St. Louis County, which sponsors the annual conference, over 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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