



# Saint Louis County

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## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **450 youth to gather for annual Iron Range Young Leaders' Conference**

Anyone needing assurance that our region's future is in good hands needs to look no further than a gathering of more than 450 youth from across the Iron Range. The nineteenth annual Iron Range Youth Leaders' Conference will be February 10, from 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. at Fortune Bay Resort on Lake Vermilion. With a theme of "Make a Difference 2014", this day of inspiration and sharing is designed by area youth for area youth.

Keynote speaker for the event is Craig Hillier who has dedicated his life to encouraging and challenging young people to make positive choices. His presentation is titled, "Breakthrough". Since 1990, Hillier has spoken with more than two million students across the country, inspiring them to make the most of their lives. While his approach is fun and upbeat, he takes his profession very seriously. He doesn't pretend to have the answers to all the challenges young people face; however, he does have ideas that can send them or keep them going in a positive direction. Hillier is the author of two books: *"How to Step Up as a Teen Leader and Still Keep Your Friends"* and *"Playing Beyond the Scoreboard"*. He also is a contributing author to *"Teen Power"* and *"Lead Now."*

Another conference highlight will be Steve Meade, a top performing hypnotist, who will take students on the Virtual Reality Tour sharing that hypnosis can lead to greater success in life.

The Make a Difference Conference will also feature seven workshops presented by Iron Range Youth in Action (IRYA) members. They include:

- Getting Schooled on Getting into College (help with college application process)
- Rethink Your Drink (what you are putting into your body)
- Stressed Out? (Let us help!)
- How to Save a Life (Bullying and suicide prevention)

- True Colors (Discover different personalities)
- The Game of Life (Make financial life decisions to come out a winner)
- College Survival 101 (How to survive and thrive in your freshman year of college).

Entertainment will also be provided by IRYA youth.

This event is funded in part by St. Louis County as well as Iron Range area businesses. The public is invited to attend all or part of the conference to see what positive differences youth are making here on the Iron Range. To learn more about the conference or Iron Range Youth in Action, visit [irya.org](http://irya.org).

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