



# IN REACH, INC.

Preparing Students For College, Work and Life



**IN REACH** is pleased to announce its new *Youth Ambassadors Program* at Parkdale High School in Prince George's County, Maryland. The purpose of the *Youth Ambassadors Program* is two-fold: to provide students with opportunities to build life skills, prepare for college and the workforce, and engage in meaningful service learning projects; and to provide guidance and support to students in identifying and implementing constructive solutions to the issues that affect them. **IN REACH** believes that young people have the best insight into their issues

and when provided with the right supports, can identify, communicate, and help implement the most appropriate solutions.

Initiated in September, 2009, the Youth Ambassadors meet twice-a-month to participate in sessions that are designed to strengthen their social and academic skills. One important goal for **IN REACH** is to build a network of professionals who will educate and expose students to a variety of opportunities that will enhance their out-of-school experiences. The Youth Ambassadors have been awarded a grant through the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, under the Maryland Youth Movement Against Tobacco—Advocacy and Activism Initiative, to implement their first service learning project promoting tobacco use prevention and cessation among Prince George's County youth.

Tentatively titled *We Have A Voice*, the Youth Ambassadors anti-tobacco campaign engages members as advocates in service learning that include conducting an environment scan, learning and educating peers about the effects of tobacco use, and meeting with at least one legislator to discuss solutions. The project will culminate in an informative community event.

Since our first program implementation in 2001, **IN REACH** continues to address issues related to preparing students for college, work and life. These issues, ranging from under-performance in core academic areas to insufficient public investment in quality education and training options to prepare youth for 21st-century labor market opportunities, are as pressing today as when **IN REACH** was founded ten years ago. Currently, **IN REACH** has a college awareness and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) career exploration program at Charles Carroll Middle School. Past programs have included a community-based girls program for middle school students (the Girls Action Council/Girls Are Great!), and a youth leadership council for high school students at Northwestern High School.

*IN REACH is a 501 (c)(3) community-focused, nonprofit organization that prepares students living in Prince George's County, Maryland for college, work and life. We envision a Prince George's County filled with healthy, productive and prepared young adults in every family. For more information about **IN REACH** or the Youth Ambassadors Program, please visit [www.inreachinc.org](http://www.inreachinc.org) or call 301.789.7250.*

*The Maryland Youth Movement Against Tobacco—Advocacy and Activism Initiative is an initiative encompassed by the statewide youth tobacco control program, Maryland TRASH (Teens Rejecting Abusive Smoking Habits). Maryland TRASH's overall goal is to foster meaningful youth-led community action in tobacco prevention activities and programs. Visit [www.marylandtrash.com](http://www.marylandtrash.com) for additional information.*