



*Self-Reliant Communities*

**For Immediate Release**

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**Isles Youth Institute Commencement June 23 at 10:30AM**



*Photo: Isles Youth Institute Graduation 2014*

Trenton, N.J. –The 20<sup>th</sup> Isles Youth Institute Commencement Ceremony will take place on Tuesday, June 23, 2015, at 10:30 AM at The Hibernian Club in Hamilton Square, NJ. Commencement will include an awards ceremony, student speeches, and a reception to follow. An audience of families, teachers, friends, and other supporters, including Trenton’s Mayor Eric Jackson, is expected to attend.

The commencement ceremony is the culmination of a year’s worth of academic and job training for students at Isles Youth Institute (IYI), an alternative school that emphasizes leadership development and civic engagement for students who have dropped out of traditional high school. Students participate in afterschool activities and volunteer extensively in the community. Staff works with students to help them apply to college and pursue employment.

Isles, a community development and environmental nonprofit in Trenton, NJ, started New Jersey’s first YouthBuild in 1995. Since then, more than 1,000 young people have successfully completed Isles Youth Institute.

“While being enrolled at Isles Youth Institute I have studied and learned many things. Now, over the course of 6 months I have noticed one important thing between studying for my diploma and learning from my teachers. That important thing is that once you have earned your diploma, it is only the first step. I have already completed the first step. My next step will be college and hopefully beyond,” says Anibal Croux, a 2015 graduate.

“Our students have worked hard, overcome seemingly unsurmountable obstacles and have proven to be resilient young people,” notes Stacy Felder, Director of Isles Youth Institute. “We wish them well as they continue on their path to success. Onward and upward!”

**The IYI Commencement Ceremony will take place on Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 AM at The Hibernian Club in Hamilton Square, NJ. The event is open to the public. For more information, please contact Cherie Hooks at 609-341-4751**

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