



## From the President



WENDY WHEELER, President,  
Innovation Center for Community  
and Youth Development

## Crossing Boundaries

At the Innovation Center, we're always looking for new ways to share our work and engage others in learning about leadership - and an online conference is our latest effort!

Earlier this month, Innovation Center Senior Director Dr. Carla Roach presented a workshop at an online conference hosted by PublicDecisions. The conference's theme was "Including the Excluded," and Dr. Roach's presentation discussed how collective leadership engages a full array of community stakeholders - including those whose voices aren't often heard.

The online forum for learning and discussion modeled the conference's theme. By hosting a virtual conference, PublicDecisions removed financial and logistical barriers that might have prevented some individuals from participating in the event.

Reflecting on the online conference experience, both as a presenter and as an attendee, Dr. Roach said that it "was a great place to meet people who share our interest in stakeholder engagement. After my presentation, I connected with participants on the other side of the country - and right down the street! PublicDecisions brought us together in an authentic and engaging way."

Dr. Roach's presentation on collective leadership highlighted ways to bring diverse stakeholders together at the community level. The "talk on collective leadership," Beth Offenbacker, President and Chief Learning Officer of PublicDecisions, said, "provided people both with practical insights and strategies for applying this approach in their own work and it opened the door to a broader conversation about leadership and change."

Learn more about [PublicDecisions](#) and [Including the Excluded](#) conference.

### Activity of the Month: Perceptions of Power

Dr. Roach's presentation for Public Decisions offered an overview of collective leadership. One of the reasons collective leadership is so unique - and so successful - is that it does not rely on traditional paradigms of leadership that center power in one or two people, usually adults. Instead, collective leadership asks all participants to share responsibility and together provide leadership to their community. This activity, from our Collective Leadership Works toolkit, helps you understanding how power is distributed within your group. [Read more...](#)

### Meet an IC Board Member: Carolyn Edlebeck

When we had the chance to catch up with Innovation Center Board of Directors member Carolyn Edlebeck in early February she was packing - for Uganda. For as long as we've known Carolyn, nearly a full 12 years, she's always been *going* somewhere and *doing* something - whether it be a visit to her town's city hall to advocate for a new recreation center, or a trip to Mexico with her sisters to volunteer in a community day care. When we spoke, just one



month after her college graduation, she was filling her suitcase with protein bars and insect repellent for a year-long stint at a school and clinic in rural Uganda. "Slow down" and "you can't" are not in her vocabulary. [Read more...](#)

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### Coming Soon: 2010 National Afterschool Alliance Convention in Washington, DC

Join the Innovation Center and the National AfterSchool Association (NAA) as we shake up the nation's capital afterschool-style from April 19-21! The IC's very own Dr. Carla Roach will be presenting a workshop about using collective leadership as a framework for afterschool service-learning. [Learn more...](#)



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