

YLF NEWS

April
2012

YLF 2012

The 9th summer for the Oklahoma Youth Leadership Forum is just around the corner! Things are moving fast in the office as we make arrangements with the University in

Chickasha (USAO), order supplies (including our wonderful bright yellow shirts!), plan activities (anyone remember how long it took you to save the world by removing toxic waste from the circle?), hire our incredible staff (making sure they're able to throw flour off a balcony, load water guns quickly and handle silly string), and get only the best presenters in the world for the delegates!

YLF 2012
Theme:
Oh! The Places
You CAN Go!



LeDerick Horne

Speaking of presenters, I'm very excited to tell you that *LeDerick Horne* will be returning to YLF for his 3rd summer! LeDerick will be staying with us all week this year too! When LeDerick was a child, he believed he didn't have much of a future. Despite being identified with a disability, he has become a successful spoken poet, playwright, motivational speaker, entrepreneur, and advocate.

Michael Beers will also be returning to YLF this summer! Michael has been performing as a stand up comic for several years. A large portion of Michael's act is based on his own life growing up in

Montana with his mother and three his sisters, their dogs, and a disability. He also ventures into some social and political commentary.



Michael Beers

Dr. Jamie VanDycke will be joining us again this year, helping us understand our roles with personal and systems advocacy and how we can become systems change agents. Our delegates will create two leadership plans this year, one plan will be focused on personal goals while the other will be focused on their individual community. *Dr. Jim Martin* and graduate students from the *University of Oklahoma* will also be joining us, helping us understand the importance of being involved in our "I.E.P" meetings. We'll be learning more about the *Department of Rehabilitation Services* this year and of course, the legislative process from *Representative Ben Sherrer*. We'll be enjoying our etiquette lesson from *Carey Sue Vega* and dancing the night away with *Sweet-n-Lo*. It's another jammed pack week of learning and fun! I can't wait until June!

If you'd like to come to YLF and hear a presenter, call Jen ASAP!