



**bigTent**

WE'RE COMING TOGETHER FOR KIDS | NOVEMBER 18-20, 2010

BigTent is the world's leading conference for people who care about schools, youth, families, & communities.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

**BigTent Conference Offers 150 BigVoice Scholarships to  
Students Eager to Speak Out for Youth in America**

**MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (Oct. 20, 2010)** -- Youth can apply now for one of 150 BigVoice Scholarships that will allow them to attend The BigTent Conference ([www.bigtentconference.com](http://www.bigtentconference.com)) in Houston Nov. 18-20, 2010. The scholarships are valued at \$60,000 and cover registration fees for all conference workshops and events at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston.

Building upon more than 50 years of positive youth development work, [Search Institute](#) has teamed to present this national conference with numerous strategic partners and sponsors who are equally committed to making a meaningful difference for youth.

The BigTent Conference is designed to attract thousands of youth-serving professionals, volunteers, and young people under one “big tent” to focus on the betterment of kids in every community in America. BigTent targets teachers, school administrators, business and community leaders, elected officials, faith-based organizations, youth programs, child psychologists, family counselors, parents, and students. The conference combines presentations, practical workshops, celebratory community building, and a challenging call to action. This unprecedented event aims to motivate and equip individuals, organizations, and communities to do their part to ensure that young people are ready for college, work, and life by age 21.

Each BigVoice scholarship covers one free conference registration for a youth participant, including all conference materials, refreshment breaks, lunches, a banquet on Thursday evening, and admission to the exhibit hall. Scholarship recipients must be accompanied at the conference by an adult chaperone. (One adult may chaperone as many as five youth participants.) Expenses for lodging, travel, ground transportation, additional meals and other expenses are the responsibility of scholarship winners and their chaperone.

Dr. Peter L. Benson, president and chief executive officer of Search Institute for 25 years and one of the hosts of The BigTent Conference explained: “Search Institute, our sponsors, and partners are offering these scholarships so that students who might not be able to afford the registration fee can have a life-changing opportunity to speak out and share their insights and concerns. We are calling it the BigVoice scholarship because we want to hear—loud and clear!—from young people about important issues that affect them, their peers, their family, their friends, and their communities. Youth can be catalysts for making positive change happen.”

To apply for The BigVoice Scholarships, please go to <http://www.bigtentconference.com/Big-Voice-Scholarship> for an application or contact

Jennifer Rosengren at [jenniferr@search-institute.org](mailto:jenniferr@search-institute.org) for more information.