Young people are society's future leaders, whether governing and contributing in the public arena or participating as voters and organizers in the private sector. But beyond that, they are actively working towards social change today.

Now more than ever, youth civic and political engagement is critical to our country, and the world's, development. Our conference will focus on the role of civics education, youth political engagement, and youth activism in the context of education, policy, and social programs.

The 6th Youth-Nex Conference, “Youth Act: Social Justice, Civic and Political Engagement,” (#YouthAct17), will provide a forum for educators, policy-makers, and practitioners across the country to focus on critical questions about a range of issues around youth civics activism and political engagement.

See Tentative Schedule Below.
Tentative Schedule

Thursday, October 26, 2017
Alumni Hall, University of Virginia

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. — REGISTRATION/LIGHT BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. — WELCOME
Robert Pianta, Ph.D. (Dean, Neuroscience, Professor of Education, Curry School of Education, University of Virginia)

9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. — Panel 1: OVERVIEW PANEL
Connie Flanagan, Ph.D. (Associate Dean and Vaughan Bascom Professor in Women, Family and Community, University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Heang Ly (Director of Consulting and Training, Center for Teen Empowerment)
Barbara Ferman, Ph.D. (Director, University Community Collaborative, Temple University)
• Panel Chair: Nancy Deutsch, Ph.D.

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. — BREAK

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. — Panel 2: THE ROLE OF CIVICS EDUCATION
Meg Heubeck (Youth Leadership Initiative Director of Instruction, Center for Politics, University of Virginia)
Diana Hess, Ph.D. (Dean, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison)
John Hunter (Founder & Executive Director, World Peace Game Foundation)
• Panel Chair: Rachel Wahl, Ph.D.

12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. — LUNCH / VIDEO PRESENTATION

1:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. — Panel 3: YOUTH POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT & ACTIVISM
Pennie Foster-Fishman, Ph.D. (Professor, Michigan State University)
Ellen C. Hope, Ph.D. (Associate Professor of Psychology, North Carolina State University)
Youth Panelists (Center for Teen Empowerment)
• Panel Chair: Chauncey Smith, Ph.D.

3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. — BREAK

3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. — Panel 4: INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK
Judith Torney-Purta, Ph.D. (Professor Emerita, Human Development & Quantitative Methodology, University of Maryland)
Roderick Watts, Ph.D. (Professor of Psychology, Graduate Center, City University of New York)
Aaron Axelson (Director, Citizen Participation Programs)
Youth Panelists (National Democratic Institute)
• Panel Chair: Nancy Deutsch, Ph.D.

4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. — CALL-TO-ACTION
• Moderator: Chauncey Smith, Ph.D.

Friday, October 27, 2017
Alumni Hall, University of Virginia

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. — LIGHT BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. — WELCOME BACK

9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. — Panel 5: PROGRAM APPROACHES TO INTEGRATING YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
Jennifer Danilo (Senior Program Officer, Pennsylvania Humanities Council)
Era Hoopes (Free Library of Philadelphia, City Institute Branch)
India Fennell (Youth, Leaders Corps)
Shafii El-Mekki (U.S. Department of Education, Campus Principal Ambassador Fellow)
• Panel Chair: Valerie Adams-Bass, Ph.D.

10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. — BREAK

10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. — Panel 6: POLICY APPROACHES TO YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
Nina Ahmad, Ph.D. (Deputy Mayor, City of Philadelphia)
Jalaya Iales, Ph.D. (Interim National Director & National Deputy Director of Operations, Children's Defense Free Fund School)
Lisa Bouillion Diaz, Ph.D. (Director, 4-H Youth Development, Assistant Dean, College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences (ACES), University of Illinois)
Youth Panelists (Charlottesville Youth Advisory Board)
• Panel Chair: Valerie Adams-Bass, Ph.D.

12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. — CALL-TO-ACTION
• Moderator: Chauncey Smith, Ph.D.

Speaker biographies to come.