

In Brief!



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Our Vision

The Joseph C. Cornwall Center strives to be:

-A key resource in the production of "usable" knowledge for the public, private, and nonprofit sector development in Newark, the northern region of New Jersey and beyond.

-A central force convening key civil society individuals and institutions as they engage in and pursue the economic, political, and cultural revitalization of Newark.

-A forceful agent for the economic and administrative coordination and cooperation of Newark and its surrounding communities.

-A national model for what a university-based center can accomplish working with regional, local, and community partners.

From the Director's Desk

We want all youth to graduate from high school and go onto college and live the American dream of a stable job, housing, and pass the opportunity on to their children. For many youth, especially youth in our nation's cities, that process will not play out in the way we all hope. The depressing reality is that there are neighborhoods in our country where half the youth will not graduate from high school. The reasons are complex.

We should look no further than a recent book by Paul Tough titled How Children Succeed for a deeper understanding of why many "disconnected youth" are the product of enormous stress and environmental challenges. Public policy has great difficulty shielding vulnerable youth from these stressors, but we can continue to present options for access to safe, caring adults.

In the course of our work for New Jersey's Attorney General studying the replication of Youth Build (a highly regarded, evidence-based youth development program), we commissioned a study of educational alternatives for disconnected youth in New Jersey. The work paper, written by Richard Roper, a well-regarded policy analyst, gives us pause and support to say that all is not lost. We can provide an alternative path to the American dream. It is not easy and public will is needed to expand support for the models discussed by Roper. But that is a more acceptable challenge than the alternative, which says, nothing works.

Richard Roper's work paper, *Alternative Education Opportunities for Vulnerable Populations in New Jersey* can be found at cornwall.rutgers.edu/working-papers .

All the best

*The views expressed in the paper are entirely the author's and do not reflect a policy stance by the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General.