

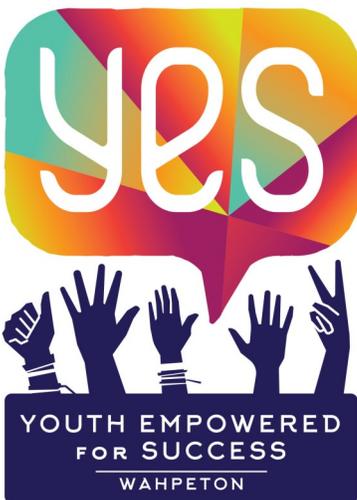


# THE WIN COLUMN

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Director

## PROJECT YES WORKS TO EDUCATE YOUTH AND THE COMMUNITY

One of the many great programs in our community you may not have heard of or know much about is Project YES.



The Project YES (Youth Empowered for Success) Coalition is an initiative through the Richland County Health Department aimed at education kids on the dangers of substance abuse.

A committee of community members—school officials, law enforcement, elected officials,

students, and more—make up a board dedicated to keeping kids away from underage drinking, smoking, and drug use.

The vision of Project YES is this: to engage youth, families, and committed stakeholders in providing education and promoting healthy decision making.

Through a national grant, Project YES has been able to send students to workshops to learn more about why habits, such as vaping, are not as innocent as they seem.

One popular activity the group has started is the “Sticker Shock” campaign aimed at keeping adults from buying alcohol for underage drinkers. Students, under the guidance of counselors and law enforcement, place warning stickers on projects at local liquor stores around times of heavy drinking, such as New Years Eve and the Super Bowl.

The coalition has also hired speakers to come to Wahpeton and talk about a number of topics related to substance abuse.

One initiative the group has on its radar is working with city staff and the City Council to update language in city ordinances to reflect the nation-wide raising of tobacco sales from 18 to 21.

If you would like more information on this important group you can find them on Facebook under Project YES Wahpeton Coalition. There’s a video (produced by yours truly) that gives an introduction to Project YES on that page. ☆



*The “Sticker Shock” campaign is one of the ways Project YES works to educate youth and the public about the dangers of underage drinking.*