

MEDIA RELEASE

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Lompoc's 2018 Teaching Our Teens As Leaders (TOTAL) Conference Now Registering

Leadership conference designed to teach, motivate, empower and energize high school and junior high students

LOMPOC, CA, Jan. 11, 2018 – The Lompoc Youth Commission is proud to announce its 5th Annual TOTAL (Teaching Our Teens As Leaders) Conference with this year's theme of "Hollywood: Shoot for the Stars".

TOTAL is a teen leadership conference open to all junior high and high school students. The keynote speakers and breakout sessions are designed to teach, motivate, empower and energize teens, inspiring them to "shoot for the stars".

This year's TOTAL Conference will be held on **Mon. Feb. 12** at the Dick DeWees Community and Senior Center, 1120 East Ocean Ave. The conference begins at 8 a.m. with check-in and a light breakfast, and will conclude at 2:30 p.m.

The day includes two keynote speakers, three break-out sessions, breakfast, lunch and a raffle. Each registrant will choose from 10 workshops to attend throughout the day. Workshop topics include: Social Media Awareness, What is Love?, Balancing Act, and Just Do It.

Pre-registration is recommended by **Jan. 31** to receive a discounted rate and conference drawstring backpack. Registrations will be accepted at the door between 8 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. the day of the event. Registration fees are \$5 if registered by Jan. 31, and \$10 per person thereafter.

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The opening keynote speaker is EJ Carrion is a best-selling author, successful entrepreneur, and preeminent thought-leader on student success. EJ grew up in a low-income community and a single-parent household. He overcame his circumstances to graduate from both high school and college with honors. EJ received the prestigious Bill Gates Scholarship. He is the co-founder of Student Success Agency, a premier academic training organization that pairs teens with near-peer advisors to help improve their high school-to-college transitional skills and succeed in the real world. The Student Success Agency serves students across the United States, and was awarded the Impact Award.

Our closing keynote speaker, Jessie Funk, will wrap up the day. Jessie holds a leadership certification from the University of Notre Dame, is a certified life coach, and holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in theater- emphasizing how to use the arts as a healing modality for teenagers. Jessie is a former leadership facilitator for Franklin Covey and has also been a professional youth speaker for 14 years, speaking for high schools and leadership conferences all over the country. She is a six-time published author and her passion to help teens led her to start an international non-profit organization called "Ivy Girl Academy," a confidence and leadership-training program for teen ladies. As a professional vocalist, Jessie has released five solo albums, has toured 36 states with the Broadway musical "Footloose," and has been hired for hundreds of recording sessions as a studio vocalist including songs heard on TV's "America's Got Talent," ESPN and "The Biggest Loser." Jessie has walked away from three record deals unwilling to sell her soul for fame. She chooses to use her voice to lift and inspire in positive ways. She also just began a life-long dream of pursuing a doctorate degree. She is earning her license as a clinical social worker and focusing on therapeutic leadership training practices for her dissertation. Jessie's favorite role in life is that of wife and mother to two.

The Youth Commissioners have been working hard to develop workshops, secure exciting motivational speakers and develop a day where teens can learn leadership skills and become empowered to make a difference in their lives. This conference is designed by teens, for teens!

To register, contact the Lompoc Recreation Division at 875-8100, stop by the Anderson Recreation Center at 125 West Walnut Avenue, or go online at apm.activecommunities.com/lompocrecreation.

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The Lompoc Recreation Division

The City of Lompoc Recreation Division has grown significantly since it was started in 1945, as the community realized the importance of recreation to quality of life. The mission of the Lompoc Recreation Division is to provide for a better quality of life by promoting positive social behavior, interaction with others, self-discovery and positive self-esteem through the development, implementation, and coordination of a wide variety of recreation and leisure services. Lompoc Recreation provides varied programs and services for youth, teens, and adults of all ages. The division also offers several venues for hosting public and private events, including the state-of-the-art Lompoc Aquatic Center. For a full list of programs and services, visit us online at www.cityoflom poc.com/parks_rec.