



Media Release

**For Immediate Release
January 5, 2026**

**For more information contact:
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37th Annual Tazewell County Teen Conference Scheduled for January 8

Hundreds of Tazewell County students are gearing up for one of the most anticipated events of the school year: Tazewell County Teen Conference. Tazewell County Health Department (TCHD) and the Tazewell County Youth Board (TCYB) are proud to host the 37th annual Tazewell County Teen Conference on **Thursday, January 8, 2026**, at Illinois Central College (ICC) in East Peoria. Teen Conference is an opportunity for junior high and high school students to interact with students from other communities while also learning about skills, programs, and opportunities relevant to their lives as pre-teens and teenagers. This year's high school conference will carry the theme, "Bee in the Moment", reminding students to appreciate the here and now rather than fretting about the future. The junior high conference theme is "Let's TikTok About It", highlighting the importance of communication and support networks.

Throughout the day, an expected 400 students from more than 20 area schools will participate in workshops designed to educate, inform, and inspire. These workshops will be hosted by area experts including, but not limited to, representatives from the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office, Bradley University, OSF Healthcare, and Tazewell County Health Department. This year's workshops include career exploration in the first responder world, the cosmetology industry, and the film industry, and will also feature topics like CPR, distracted driving, college prep, and medication safety among others.

2026 Teen Conference keynote speaker Kevin Wanzer will deliver his keynote address "Choose to Love, Choose Aloha" in the Performing Arts Center at ICC at 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. Wanzer, a motivational comedian from Indianapolis, Indiana, has been engaging with students since his sophomore year in high school - and hasn't stopped for the past 40 years. With a reach of over 3,000 audiences in all 50 states, Kevin's message emphasizes living authentically, choosing positively, valuing diversity, and extending a helping hand to those who may be overlooked.

MEDIA: Please RSVP prior to the event with your interest to attend to JD Raucci at 309-929-0395

INTERVIEWS: Available with keynote speaker Kevin Wanzer and Tazewell County Youth Board President Kamden Garman and Vice President Sydney Goebel, following Wanzer's first keynote speech from approximately **10 a.m.-11 a.m.** Media are invited to attend Wanzer's talk at **9 a.m.**

WHERE: Performing Arts Center at Illinois Central College – 1 College Dr., East Peoria, IL 61635

The Tazewell Teens Unlimited Teen Conference is sponsored by the Tazewell County Health Department, the Tazewell County Youth Board, Tazewell County Schools, and the Tazewell Community Initiative.

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