

## Adrian Ruiz – Biography

### Youth Development Network

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Adrian is Executive Director of the Youth Development Network and a Gallup Certified Strengths Coach. Adrian has over 15 years experience in asset-based, strengths-based youth development approach and principles. Adrian has devoted his life to serving youth worker professionals and organizational systems with a focus on creating environments for youth to maximize their potential.

His top five strengths themes are:  
Maximizer | Strategic | Woo | Communication | Ideation.

In 2009 Adrian realized the benefits of the Clifton Strengthsfinder tool, and the impact potential to the success of the teams and leaders that embrace the strengths approach within their organizations, programs and businesses. Adrian has successfully incorporated the strengths-based approach internally for the entire Youth Development Network team and its board members and has successfully been incorporating the strengths-based approach into the Youth Development Network core trainings, technical assistance and coaching for individuals, executives, and teams.

As a gifted, experienced, coach and trainer, Adrian and his team created the Strengths-Based Institute (SBI) to assist organizations in becoming strengths-centered and operated. The impact of the SBI is undeniable and evident in the fact that it was the catalyst to a local school district being awarded a 10 million dollar federal grant to become a completely strengths-based system by 2016. Adrian works closely with the Superintendent, School Board and Site Administrators on critical aspects of becoming a strengths-based youth development district..

During his role as Executive Director Adrian has worked successfully with a multitude of systems and services including education, community based non-profits, faith-based organizations, mental health providers, parks and recreation and many more. He has provided technical assistance and coaching to a number of School Districts throughout the region, including Twin Rivers Unified, Black Oak Mine, Galt Joint Union Elementary, Sacramento City Unified, Woodland Unified, and Washington Unified as well as Sacramento County Office of Education.

Prior to becoming a team member of the Youth Development Network Adrian worked for San Francisco Peer Resources where he served in various leadership roles including Manager of Middle School Programs, Assistant Director and Co- Executive Director.